



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION

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January 12, 2012

The Honorable Robert Odell, Chairman  
and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
NH Legislative Office Building, Room 102  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: Support of SB 250 An act relative to operation of ATV's and trail bikes on state lands**

Dear Chairman Odell and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks & Recreation in support of Senate Bill 250.

Senate Bill 250 makes reasonable and realistic changes to the criteria that are used to review and develop off highway recreational vehicle trails on State lands. You may not be aware that the original criteria were developed as an in-house guidance document, for land owning/managing State agencies, which had flexibility and allowed for case-by-case reviews of proposed trail locations. The current criteria language is very specific in its restrictions and does not allow the best decisions to be made in some cases. The topic has been discussed and several pieces of legislation have been filed in previous years to address these topics.

This bill makes realistic and reasonable changes to the "fine filter criteria" and other sections of law, which are in the interest of the NH Trail System, local communities and the stewardship of State lands. Off Highway Recreational Vehicle users are very important contributors to the tourism industry of NH and anything that we can do to appropriately support this use will be very important to the local economies, especially in the North Country.

We are available to answer any questions you may have on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip A. Bryce".

Philip A. Bryce  
Director

PAB/cg

C: George M. Bald, Commissioner