



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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March 26, 2019

The Honorable Robert Cushing, Chair
and the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 204
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 630-FN, increasing certain fines for OHRV and snowmobile operation violations.

Dear Chairman Cushing and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation **in support of HB 630-FN**, increasing certain fines for OHRV and snowmobile operation violations.

The agency has been working with local law enforcement agencies, communities, the NH OHV Association and NH Snowmobile Association on issues that are common to these entities. Off trail riding (no landowner permission), unregistered vehicles, excessive speed and modified exhaust systems are the most common violations that landowners and others complain about, and these have direct impacts to the NH Trail System. These violations lead and complaints often lead to trail closures. These closed trails are typically relocated somewhere else, at significant expense to the State and also to local clubs; however there are times when the trail is simply lost to access. The fines in NH are set low and in some cases the cost of a fine, such as for being unregistered, is less than the cost of compliance.

The fine levels today do not deter the minority of riders that participate in law violating activities and it is the agencies hope that with higher fines we would see a decrease in these activities. This initiative is being done in an effort to curtail activities that are currently occurring, not as a revenue producing initiative. The goal of our agency, and our partners, is to reduce violations and fines overall. The fine levels were recommended to the agency by the user groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of HB 630-FN**. Chris Gamache, Chief of our Bureau of Trails is available to answer any question that the committee should have.

Sincerely,


Philip A. Bryce, Director

Cc: Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner