



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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January 23, 2024

The Honorable James Gray
and the Senate Finance Committee
State House, Rm 103
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: SB 397-FN making an appropriation for OHRV trails

Dear Chair Gray and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Trails ("Bureau") regarding SB 397 making an appropriation for OHRV trails. My name is Craig Rennie, Chief of the Bureau of Trails that manages 1,000 miles of OHRV trails, 300 miles of state-owned rail trails and over 7,400 miles of snowmobile trails.

I'd like to thank Senator Gendreau and the bill's sponsors for their generous support of \$2 million for remediating OHRV and snowmobile trails damaged by weather-related events in July 2023, that included significant damage and washouts in the Pittsburg and Swanzey areas. Initial damage estimates for the July storm are over \$1.5 million. In addition, a significant December 18, 2023 rain event caused extensive trail damage in the Berlin, Gorham and Randolph areas, particularly within Jericho Mountain State Park. The Bureau has been actively working to repair a number of washouts from the December storm to restore snowmobile trail connectivity between the Berlin and Gorham communities.

As a significant portion of the impact has occurred on DNCR lands, we respectfully ask the bill sponsors and Committee for consideration of amending the bill to:

- Distribute 50% of the appropriation to the Bureau of Trails in a dedicated, non-lapsing fund for storm-related trail repair work on state lands, and
- Distribute 50% of the appropriation to the Grant-in-Aid program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for SB 397. I appreciate your consideration of an amendment to the bill. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Craig D. Rennie
Chief, Bureau of Trails

C: Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Brian J. Wilson, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation

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