



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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February 5, 2019

The Honorable Cathryn Harvey, Chair
and the Fish and Game and Marine Resources Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 309
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 699-FN, relative to discounts for OHRV and snowmobile registrations.

Dear Chairman Harvey and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation regarding HB 699, relative to discounts for OHRV and snowmobile registrations. **The Division opposes HB 699-FN**, because of its negative impact to our valued trails partners in the OHRV and snowmobile communities and the trail maintenance funding that would be lost.

The agency has a long history of working with the local non-profit OHRV and snowmobile clubs around the State of New Hampshire. Today, most riders of our public trail system are members of local clubs. The membership levels in the clubs today are directly related to our discounted registration program. The original intent of the registration discounts was to encourage riders to join a club; which would increase funding for the clubs to complete trail projects and also increase volunteerism for clubs. All of these get grants for trail projects from our Bureau of Trails, but there is match fund component to the grants that requires clubs to be able to contribute their own funding to projects as well as the grant funds they receive from us.

The snowmobile club membership discount registration has been in place for over 15 years and overall works very well. The OHRV club membership discount program took effect this past May and is working well so far. This bill ultimately hurts the local clubs, who are partners and agents of the State, for trail projects and this bill would decrease funding available for trail projects. Based on FY 2018 registration figures for snowmobiles, and estimated registration figures for FY 2019 for OHRVs, we estimate that the Grant In Aid program would lose \$653,400. These funds would come directly out of the accounts currently used for trail projects today.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in opposition of HB 699-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