

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

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January 19, 2016

The Honorable Chris Christensen, Chair and the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee NH State House, Room 305 Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 1170, an act relative to special permits for OHRV operation in Jericho Mountain State Park.

Dear Chairman Christensen and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Trails in <u>support of House Bill 1170</u>.

This bill would allow DRED to continue to offer specialty trails for 4x4 off road vehicles (jeeps and trucks) at Jericho Mountain State Park. In 2013, HB 349 was passed by the legislature and that bill gave us a 3 year opportunity to develop a trail and determine if this type of recreational trail was worthwhile at the Park. The trail formally opened this spring and has proven to be a successful venture at Jericho Mountain. Formal authority to continue use of the trail expired on January 1st and we are seeking authority to continue its use.

The language in HB 1170 mirrors the language of HB 349 from 2013. The only change to the original language is the removal of a sunset date.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of HB 1170. I am happy to answer any question that the committee should have.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Bryce

Director

c: Jeffrey J. Rose, Commissioner

Chris Gamache, Chief, Bureau of Trails