



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

The Honorable George Sykes, Chairman
and the Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 203
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 592, relative to OHRV operation and license.

Dear Chairman Sykes and Members of the Committee,

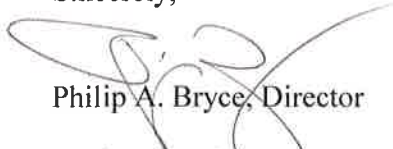
Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation regarding in **support of HB 592, relative to OHRV operation and license.**

The agency requested this legislation after listening to municipal input across Coos County. The most common concern from communities when discussing the potential opening of some town roads for OHRV use was the age of operators that would be able to drive OHRVs on their roads. Youths over the age of 12, who have completed a NH Fish & Game Safety Education program, can operate on roads as part of the statewide trail system. This youth operation has been identified as a primary safety concern from local communities. Four North Country communities have passed Ordinances, pursuant to RSA 215-A:15, I-a, that have language similar to this bill. However, these ordinances do not comply with existing statute language and the abutting Towns do not have such ordinance language. This inconsistency in regulations is causing confusion to riders and local enforcement officers.

As this was a significant safety concern of many municipalities, who are considered landowners in the statewide trail system, we felt it prudent to bring this legislation with the intent to unify regulations where possible.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony **in support of HB 592.** Please feel free to follow up with Chris Gamache, Chief of Bureau of Trails, with any questions that the committee may have.

Sincerely,


Philip A. Bryce, Director

Cc: Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner