



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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January 29, 2020

The Honorable Suzanne Smith, Chair
and the Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 309
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1426, requiring an off highway recreational vehicle club to have certain tests performed on a rail trail prior to use an OHRV trail.

Dear Chairman Smith 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 opposition as written to HB 1426**, requiring an off highway recreational vehicle club to have certain tests performed on a rail trail prior to use as an OHRV trail.

The Division agrees that ideally tests should be done on former rail corridors to address concerns over potential hazardous materials and fugitive dust due to the prior railroad use. However the Division feels that these tests should be required for any form of recreational use and would request that this bill be amended to say that these tests be performed prior to the use of any rail trail for any recreational use. Further, we would recommend that this amendment be placed in RSA 216-F: Multi-Use Statewide Trail System.

The State of New Hampshire is not the only owner of former railroad corridors. They are also owned and maintained for recreational use by municipalities. To achieve the intent of this legislation, an amendment should also be made to include all publically held rail corridors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding **HB 1426**, as written. Chris Gamache, Chief of our Bureau of Trails, is available to answer any question that the committee might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip A. Bryce".

Philip A. Bryce, Director

Cc: Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner