

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE of the COMMISSIONER

172 Pembroke Road P.O. Box 1856 Concord, New Hampshire 03302-1856

603-271-2411
FAX: 603-271-2629

February 19, 2013

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

Re: HB 574, an act increasing the size limitations for OHRVs operating on state-owned trails.

Dear Chair Chandley and Members of the Committee,

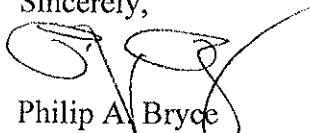
Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Trails in support of House Bill 574.

This bill increases the size of OHRVs that would be permitted to operate on state-owned trails from 50" to 62". We have spent three years discussing this change and reviewing the size of vehicles permitted on trails in other states, as well as the vehicles being used on other trails in NH. The utility-style OHRV market is the largest and fastest growing recreational vehicle market in the U.S.

Currently, utility-style vehicles (often called UTVs) can be registered for use in NH and ridden on trails on private lands. The major issue facing the Bureau is that State-owned trails connect directly to private property trails and the average user is unaware of the difference in size restrictions. Additionally, in the North Country, sections of trails owned by the State would prohibit riders from operating on the proposed OHRV loop system that would allow riders to reach local services and communities. We think that the 62" width allowance is a reasonable limit for the trails under our management. Bureau Chief Chris Gamache is available to answer questions from the committee.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of HB 574. Feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Bryce
Acting Commissioner

PAB/CG/tt021313