



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
172 Pembroke Road Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Phone: (603) 271-3556 Fax: (603) 271-3553
Web: www.nhstateparks.org

February 26, 2019

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

RE: HB 660-FN, relative to the economic impacts of OHRV use in New Hampshire.

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 of HB 660-FN** as written, relative to the economic impacts of OHRV use in New Hampshire.

The agency agrees that updated economic impacts studies regarding OHRV use need to be accomplished, as do economic impacts studies of all outdoor recreational activities. A comprehensive statewide trail plan should also be accomplished in the near future. The agency has been working with other stakeholders to try to identify funding to accomplish these tasks.

We are also concerned that the funding identified for these studies is from the existing operating funds and trail maintenance accounts within the Bureau of Trails. As written the bill would take up to \$600,000 of funds intended for trail maintenance to be used for these studies. Our agency is self-funded through registration fees and the funding we receive is intended for operating the Bureau of Trails and funding maintenance grants to local clubs. All of the funding we receive is used to support the maintenance and availability of the trail system for public use. The amount of funding identified to be used in this bill is more than 100% of the existing grant funds to our volunteer clubs. We support the general intent of the bill, but cannot support the use of existing our funds to complete these studies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in opposition of HB 660-FN**. Please feel free to contact Chris Gamache, Chief of our Bureau of Trails, to answer any question that the committee should have.

Sincerely,

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

Philip A. Bryce, Director

Cc: Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner