STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
BUREAU OF TRAILS
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April 1, 2014

The Honorable Benjamin Lefebvre, Chairman
    and the House Fish and Game and Marine Resources Committee
NH State House, Room 307
Concord, NH   03301

Re: SB 311, an act authorizing the executive director of the fish and game department to execute an agreement allowing reciprocal snowmobile riding privileges with the states of Vermont and Maine.

Dear Chairman Lefebvre 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 the Senate Bill 311.

Our office has been meeting with counterparts from the snowmobile community in Vermont and Maine for the past two years to attempt to reinstate reciprocal winter riding opportunities for NH residents. The three states all agree that due to economic concerns with the previous reciprocity agreements from the 1990's it is unlikely full riding opportunities would occur again. However, all of the States feel that marketing Northern New England as a snowmobile destination and having a regional snowmobile registration may be a viable product to offer and would benefit all of the States.

This bill will allow the Executive Director of the Fish and Game Department the ability to agree to a regional registration fee, in agreement with Vermont and Maine, and sell it here in NH. This would allow NH to be proactive in the negotiation process and continue to work cooperatively with our neighboring States to improve snowmobiling in the region.

Thank you for considering this testimony in support of SB 311. We are happy to be available to answer questions that you may have regarding our testimony.

Sincerely,

Chris Gamache
Chief

CG/mc