

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION

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April 15, 2014

The Honorable Candace Bouchard, Chairman and House Transportation Committee Legislative Office Building, Room 203 Concord, NH 03301

Re: SB 240-FN, an act relative to authorizing temporary registrations of OHRVs for nonresidents.

Dear Chairman Bouchard 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 <u>support of Senate Bill</u> 240-FN as amended by the Senate.

This bill would authorize the Fish & Game Department to sell a 10-day OHRV registration to non-residents. This bill is an effort to make OHRV initiatives, such as the Ride the Wilds, more economic to out-of-state tourists that are traveling to NH for a short period of time. The Fish & Game Department had this authority previously; however, the authority had a sunset date which expired in January of 2013.

The temporary registration had limited success when it was last authorized and was used primarily by people visiting the North Country for events such as the Jericho ATV Festival. With the opening of the Coos Loop Trail System last summer we feel there may be more positive registration impacts from the product if it is made available again. The bill includes a sunset provision also in the event it is not successful.

Thank you for considering this testimony in support of SB 240-FN. Feel free to contact me should you require any additional information. Chris Gamache, Bureau of Trails Chief, will be available to the committee for follow up if any questions arise.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Director

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