



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

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January 14, 2014

The Honorable Jim Rausch, Chairman  
and Senate Transportation Committee  
NH State House, Room 101  
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: SB 230, an act relative to the definition of utility terrain vehicles.**

Dear Chairman Rausch 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 230.

This bill is a result of the work done, and final report issued, by the Senate Bill 67 Study Committee this past summer. The Utility Vehicle, or side by side OHRV, is the fastest growing off highway recreational vehicle market in the country. Over the past 2 legislative sessions bills have been passed to allow for these vehicles on trails at Jericho Mountain State Park and then again to allow for them on State-owned trails in Coos, and portions of Grafton County. We would support an amendment to reduce the 65" width proposed in this bill to a maximum of 62" for UTVs. The 62" width could be consistent with the current statutory maximum width permitted on State-owned trails in Northern NH.

We would support passage of this bill because there is no legal definition of what these vehicles are in NH and this bill would provide that legal definition. Passage of this bill would also help inform the public about what vehicles are permitted on the state-wide trail system. The proposed language is derived from some examples in other states and formatted to be consistent with existing NH statutory definitions within the OHRV chapter.

Thank you for considering this testimony in support of SB 230. Feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Chris Gamache, Bureau of Trails Chief, is available to answer questions that you may have regarding our testimony.

Sincerely,

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

Philip A. Bryce  
Director

PAB/cg