



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

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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 232, an act relative to speed limits for off highway recreational vehicles and snowmobiles.

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 232.

This bill is a result of the Senate Bill 67 Study Committee, which met to work on several OHRV related matters, this past summer. The Committee reviewed the existing statutory speed limits on roads for OHRVs and recommended minor changes to the existing speed limits to make them more reasonable and acknowledge the differences between trail speeds for snowmobiles and OHRVs. The recommendations that the Committee supported are before you today in the form of SB 232.

The two primary changes are increasing OHRV speed limits on Town Roads from 10 mph to 20 mph and lowering the State-wide trails speed limit for OHRVs from 45 mph to 35 mph. More explanation on these two changes is listed below:


-The increase from 10 mph to 20 mph is requested because the existing 10 mph limit on Town roads creates a significant speed differential with conventional motor vehicles and that low of a speed limit is not reasonable as a travel speed for potentially long distances.

-The existing 45 mph maximum speed applies to OHRVs because it was the speed limit set for snowmobiles, when they were part of the OHRV chapter. Snowmobiles were removed from the OHRV chapter in 2003 and placed in their own Snowmobile Chapter. However, little change was made at that time to speeds or other specifics. 45 mph is felt to be too high of a speed limit on trails and we request that the limit be lowered to 35 mph, which is a more reasonable summer trail speed.

Thank you for considering this testimony in support of SB 232. 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 "P. Bryce", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Philip A. Bryce
Director

PAB/cg