



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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January 29, 2020

The Honorable George Sykes, Chair
and the Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 203
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1156, establishing a committee to study minimizing road use for Ride the Wilds.

Dear Chairman Sykes 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 support of HB 1156**, establishing a committee to study minimizing road use for Ride the Wilds.

The Division agrees that we need to try to minimize overall road use by OHRV's and find off-road settings for trails in the Coos County trail network. Previously, those off-road connections were not available and the result was use of town and state roads for trail connections and routes to services. We also suggest that this legislation should be amended to include a broader look at the OHRV network to include issues being addressed in other legislation submitted this session.

Moving trails off of public roads and into the woods, while desirable, create trade-offs and will require working with and the support of both public and private landowners. This effort may also require additional legislative direction.

The State of Maine recently published the findings of Maine's Task Force on All Terrain Vehicle Trail Initiatives. This report addresses some of the items that New Hampshire will need to discuss if we are going to make purposeful efforts to minimize road use as OHRV trails. The report can be found at https://www.maine.gov/ifw/atv-snowmobile/atv/governors_task_force.html

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of HB 1156**. Chris Gamache, Chief of our Bureau of Trails is available 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