

LD 1156, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation

To: Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Craig Anderson.

I am the general manager and co-owner of Central Maine Powersports, located in Lewiston. We have been annual business members of over 80 snowmobile and ATV clubs every year for the past 18 years. We have supported our local clubs financially doing rides, and over the past 5 years created a web site www.cmpsTrailfund.com to help direct the local ATV riding community to the 14 participating local ATV clubs for membership and volunteer support.

We currently direct about 80 new club members annually, and do over 900 PSA radio commercials, spreading the word "If you ride the trails, join a club or Two- and consider volunteering".

Our personal annual investment to these programs ranges between \$25,000.00 and \$30,000.00, and the need is far greater. The pool of volunteers is an extremely under-served commodity, and the lack of financial and law enforcement support for our recreational riding community is becoming detrimental.

The only way clubs can continue to support the landowners, our trail network, and keep up with the volume of riders today is with sub- contractor assistance, and state financial support

Over the past 10 years snowmobile registration has dropped about 50%, and ATV registration has near tripled. The positive financial impact on our communities is well worth the state's investment, and the riding season is now 12 months of the year, in Maine. The Maine Trails bond is an excellent foundation for support and collaboration with our communities, and businesses. The focus on 20% minimum matching funds will help spur business involvement and keep the goals attainable by our club network.

Sincerely

Craig Anderson

Central Maine Powersports