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## MAINE INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

### Subject: Support for LD341 – An Act to Change the Definition of "Oversized UTV"

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and Committee Members,

As a **large landowner in Maine** who enjoys **UTVs for recreation with my family** and allows access to my land for responsible riders, I am writing to express my **full support for LD341, An Act to Change the Definition of "Oversized UTV."**

Over the years, I have witnessed firsthand how **UTVs have evolved to be safer, more comfortable, and more accessible to a wider range of riders**—including families, older riders, and those with disabilities. Many of these newer UTV models exceed the current weight limit simply because they include **enclosed cabs, heating, safety features, and even electric battery technology**. It makes no sense that these well-designed machines should be restricted from registration in Maine when they **cause no more impact to the land than lighter models**.

#### UTV Weight Increase Will Not Harm the Land

As someone who **owns and manages large parcels of land**, I can say with confidence that allowing **heavier UTVs** will **not** cause any more damage than the UTVs and other recreational vehicles that are already in use.

- **Soil and Trail Impact** – The distribution of weight across **larger tires and advanced suspension systems** actually helps minimize deep ruts and trail degradation. In fact, **heavier UTVs often have better traction and stability, which reduces excessive spinning and damage to softer trails**.
- **Sustainable Land Use** – I have observed **no noticeable difference in wear and tear** on my land from heavier UTVs compared to lighter ones. **Proper trail maintenance, responsible riding habits, and designated routes** have a much greater impact on land preservation than minor weight differences.
- **Forestry and Utility Access** – Many landowners, myself included, use UTVs for **land management, forestry work, and agricultural purposes**. **Larger, enclosed UTVs provide a safe and effective way to navigate rugged terrain while protecting riders from the elements**. Restricting these machines serves no practical benefit to landowners or recreational users.

#### Encouraging Responsible Access and Family Recreation

As a **landowner who voluntarily allows access to my property for responsible UTV riders**, I **welcome this proposed change** because it encourages more people—especially families—to enjoy Maine's great outdoors.

- Many **older riders and families with children** prefer **enclosed, climate-controlled UTVs** for safety and comfort, but current weight limits unfairly restrict their ability to register and ride.

- These larger UTVs allow **multi-generational riders**—grandparents, parents, and children—to **explore together in a safe and responsible way**.
- Restrictive weight limits **discourage participation and limit access** for those who simply want to enjoy Maine’s trails **without causing harm to the land**.

### **A Balanced Approach to Outdoor Recreation**

Maine has always struck a balance between **landowner rights, recreational access, and environmental responsibility**. **LD341 reflects that balance** by allowing the registration of modern UTVs that are already in use on private and commercial lands **without negatively impacting trail systems or the environment**.

As someone who has a vested interest in **preserving the integrity of my land while also encouraging outdoor recreation**, I strongly urge the committee to **support and pass LD341**.

Thank you for your time and for considering the perspectives of landowners like myself who **support responsible UTV access and believe that a weight increase will not harm Maine’s natural resources**.

Sincerely,

**WADE MCCRUM MCCRUMM FAMILY HOLDINGS**

BRENT GRASS BD GRASS AND SONS

RICKEY BOUCHARD BUCHARD FARMS

DUANE THERIAULT THERIAULT FARMS

MARK MADORE MADORE FARMS

BRENT BUCK BUCK FARMS

RYAN GUERRETTE GUERRETTE FARMS

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