

Nancy Lowry  
Eastbrook  
LD 557

To be clear, I am vehemently against the allowance of ATVs on paved roads in residential neighborhoods.

I live in Eastbrook, Hancock County, Maine on the Macomber Mill Rd. which travels easterly through to the town of Franklin to the George's Pond Rd which ends very near to the Sunrise Trail. Eastbrook is peppered with forestry logging roads which are open to the public for recreation. ATVs frequent these trails. A convenient way for ATV riders to reach these logging roads is via my road, Macomber Mill. This road is a small "camp" road used by year round and seasonal people who own property on Molasses Pond. Because Eastbrook select people have allowed ATVs to travel on any town road, the Macomber Mill Rd. has inadvertently become part of the ATV trail system. ATVs ride past my house at any time 365 days/year, 24 hours/day. The road is posted with a 25 mph speed limit.

But, they speed constantly, ride recklessly, the noise is intolerable, and the disregard for residences is rampant. One of the Maine state ATV operational laws states that ATVs are not permitted to travel within 200' of a dwelling. Then why are they allowed to on my road? And why would you give them permission to ride on all the roads? You'd be breaking your own law!

My house is well within 200' as are many others. The EPA states that "Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation account for about 28 percent of total US greenhouse gas emissions, making it the largest contributor..." Then why when Maine is trying to combat climate change, are ATVs, small combustion engine polluters, allowed to travel at all? Especially for recreation!

LD557 would require law enforcement of which there is very little. The shortage of troopers is a known problem. I have seen how ATV riders behave on our paved roads in Eastbrook and it is rude, dangerous, and loud. You can hear them coming for miles. The peace that I moved here for is almost gone.

I implore you to NOT allow ATVs on any paved road in Maine. They have their own trails. A human being has so little protection in them and yet LD 557 states they can travel up to 50 mph with cars, trucks, school buses, and public transportation. All in the name of the economy. Humans have been favoring the economy for years and look where that's gotten us. Please, bring back the quiet that we love in Maine and the safety on our roads. Keep ATVs in the woods on the trails that were built for them. Otherwise, this is an accident waiting to happen. Thank you