

**Testimony in Opposition to LD 1565**  
**An Act to Allow the Use of Certain All-terrain Vehicles on Snowmobile Trails**  
**April 23, 2025**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the committee, my name is Matt Stedman from Ashland Maine and I am writing today to testify in opposition to LD 1565.

The Maine Snowmobile Association is comprised of 280 member clubs in every corner of Maine—and thousands of volunteers who over 100,000 hrs/season maintaining more than 14,000 miles of snowmobile trails statewide for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

As the Maine Snowmobile Association Exec VP, an avid snowmobiler, club volunteer and groomer operator I believe having ATV's and side-by-side's with tracks on snowmobile trails would negatively impact the trails. If these machines want to use the trails, they should have to pay, just like a snowmobile does, to ride the snowmobile trails. Costs' keep going up, why should there be use of the trails without having to pay? There is already a well established system for these tracked ATV's to register as a snowmobile.

LD 1565 would amend Title 12, Subsection 13107 to allow owners of all-terrain vehicles equipped with tracks to purchase an endorsement sticker for \$25 which would permit them to ride on trails that are financed with money from the Snowmobile Trail Fund.

The Maine Snowmobile Association opposes this legislation for three reasons:

**Safety-** Encouraging more ATV's & SxS's onto the trails for this lower fee will increase the concerns already raised about these machines mixed with snowmobiles on trails that range from 6 to 10ft wide. Some ATVs equipped with tracks can far exceed the width of snowmobiles and trails were not designed for them. This poses a danger not just to passengers in the ATV, but oncoming snowmobilers as well.

**Lack of Clarity-** The bill does not specify where the \$25 for endorsement sticker will be deposited or how it will be used.

**Financial Impact-** Ironically, MSA is also testifying on another bill (LD 1547) in the Taxation Committee today. LD 1547 seeks to direct more funding to the Snowmobile Trail Fund, whereas LD 1565 would likely reduce funding and undermines current funding objectives.

I urge the committee to vote ought not to pass.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matt Stedman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Matt Stedman