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LD 276

I am submitting testimony to oppose proposed bill LD 276, An Act to Modernize ATV Classification, Registration, Trail Access and Landowner Protections. Maine has many trail systems that depend on landowners' goodwill to open their land for recreational purposes. The current law that was developed by the ATV task force was and continues to be a common sense solution that allows people to use the trails on machines that fit the current trail system. Just because manufacturers continue to make bigger and bigger ATV's does not mean that suddenly the environment can handle larger machines. My work with the Soil and Water Conservation District prioritizes healthy soils and clean water. Getting rid of ATV size limits will only further exacerbate trail erosion, runoff, and trail degradation. If this is on private land, these long-term effects and costs fall on the landowner. LD 276 is a bill that seems to favor manufacturers and leaves out the cost to Maine's trails, fields, and forested systems that will ultimately be negatively impacted. Why pass a new bill that is going to require more issues for landowners and Maine's environment when the current law was drafted with thoughtful input and negotiations between landowners, law enforcement, ATV groups, and conservation groups? Thank you for considering this testimony in opposition to LD 276.