

Testimony of the Maine Snowmobile Association
Neither for Nor Against LD 350
An Act Regarding the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
March 9, 2026

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I am here on behalf of the Maine Snowmobile Association to testify neither for nor against LD 350.

The Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA) understands that there are many unresolved issues regarding ATV use in Maine that may require additional discussion and consideration outside of this legislative session. At MSA, our thousands of miles of trail system is almost entirely based on the goodwill of private landowners, and we continue to support them in these discussions.

MSA recently participated in the stakeholder group born from LD 1308. That process required many months of time and discussed many of the issues that would likely be discussed in the new ATV Task Force proposed in this bill.

To the extent that the Legislature wishes for stakeholders to continue discussing issues and recommending solutions, it may be more efficient and effective to direct the already existing Landowner Sportsmen Relations Advisory Board to undertake this responsibility, solicit public feedback, report back to this committee next January on the status and outcomes of those discussions, and give this committee the authority to report out a bill in 2027 (if needed).

We certainly appreciate the Maine snowmobile community being included in the proposed amendment and having a seat at the table for these discussions as decisions on ATV use also have implications for snowmobile access.

Thank you for your consideration. We would be pleased to answer any questions or provide additional information at the work session.