



7 Noyes Street Place
PO Box 80
Augusta, ME 04332
Phone: (207) 622-6983
www.mainesnowmobileassociation.com

Maine Snowmobile Association 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 Al Swett and I am here today on behalf of the Maine Snowmobile Association 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 spend their blood, sweat, and tears maintaining more than 14,000 miles of snowmobile trails statewide for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

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 thus trails were not designed for these machines. 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.

Changes to snowmobile registration fees and registration requirements may be necessary in the future, but they should be based on long-term planning and funding needs and have express support from those that are responsible for maintaining these snowmobile trail systems.

MSA is always happy to engage in discussion with stakeholders, but we believe that this legislation lacks appropriate safety and financial consideration and would urge the committee to vote ought not to pass.

Thank you for your consideration.