



Russell Black
Senator, District 5

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

**LD 1547, An Act to Use a Portion of the Sales Tax on Snowmobiles
to Fund Maine's Snowmobile Trail Programs
Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
April 23, 2025**

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and members of the Taxation Committee:

I am Russell Black and I have the pleasure of representing Senate District 5. I am here today to introduce LD 1547, "An Act to Use a Portion of the Sales Tax on Snowmobiles to Fund Maine's Snowmobile Trail Programs."

In recent years I have spoken to many snowmobile club volunteers about the need to increase funding for local clubs to be able to maintain Maine's vast network of snowmobile trails. This need was never more apparent than after the experience snowmobile clubs had following the historic winter storms of 2023/2024.

I am pleased to have been able to work with the Maine Snowmobile Association on this legislation and propose a funding model that is similar to that of motor vehicles and public roads. In this case, we propose to dedicate 40% of the sales tax on snowmobiles to the State's Snowmobile Trail Fund.

As you know, snowmobiling in Maine is a longstanding family tradition, and helps to attract hundreds of millions of dollars to our local economies. The dwindling active volunteers at local snowmobile clubs shoulder the burden of keeping these trails in extraordinary condition, both for resident riders and visitors alike. Counting on volunteers to do these jobs is one thing, but counting on them to do this job without adequate resources is something we have the ability to avoid.

Now, I recognize that Maine's fiscal condition is lean and we all have tough choices to make when it comes to how we will spend remaining state dollars; but I ask you to consider this model and see if there might be ways to begin moving the needle in a way that helps provide more adequate funding for these local clubs in a manner that is reflective of how much value they create for Maine's winter economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee
State House (207) 287-1505 * Fax (207) 287-1527 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900 * TTY 711
Russell.Black@legislature.maine.gov * legislature.maine.gov/senate*