



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1440  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

## **Mark Blier**

P.O. Box 148,  
Buxton, ME 04093  
Residence: (207) 712-5705  
Mark.Blier@legislature.maine.gov

Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker, and esteemed members of the Agriculture Conservation and Forestry Committee.

I am Representative Mark Blier and I represent House District 138 which includes the towns of Buxton, Cornish, Limington, and Hollis.

I'm here today to present my bill LD 1762 "*An Act to Protect Recreational Trails by Establishing the Trails for the Future Program*" This bill protects an over \$1 billion industry of trail systems which provides ATV and snowmobile access in this great state.

In the early 90S, I moved from northern Maine to southern Maine to the town of Old Orchard Beach. At that time I was able to ride my snowmobile from Old Orchard Beach all way to Buxton. Somewhere in the mid-90s, a housing development was developed in the middle of the trail. This closed off access partway to that destination, which was never to be opened again. We are fortunate in this state that landowners allow ATV and snowmobile clubs access to their land to give us recreation for the benefit of our enjoyment and a huge tax collection through hotel and rental housing, restaurants, recreational vehicle dealerships, and the like.

This bill would help solidify the future access to these trails by creating a program that would buy the rights to keep trails intact for future use. This can be done through easements, but there's no particular program that would incorporate all trail systems in our state. This also will give the option of a person who purchases the property with a trail right on it to have the availability to move the trail with the club's permission. The permission would only ensure that the relocation of the trail would not hinder snow, grooming, and or environmental issues. The relocation of the trail would come at the expense of the owner, but would give him the availability as long as he connects the trail from point A to point B. There are hundreds of miles of trails within our State. Let's work together to insure the future sustainability of a huge economic impact to our state and solidify the trails for future generations to come.

Thank you, and I am will to answer any questions.