

Testimony of James L. Robbins in opposition to LD 276 **“An Act Regarding Inland Fisheries and Wildlife”**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

My name is James L. Robbins from Searsmont, Maine. I am representing Robbins Lumber Inc.. Robbins Lumber owns and manages nearly 30,000 acres in Knox, Waldo and Hancock counties. We have four ATV trails on our land. One trail reaches all way across Township 40 in Hancock County.

I believe this committee is making a big mistake if you ignore the findings of the Public Access to Private Lands Working Group who reported back to the IFW committee earlier this session and recommended against allowing bigger ATVs on our private trails.

The ATVs are getting way too big now and these big machines do more and more damage to the trails across our privately owned lands. Some of these machines look like small pick-up trucks and cost up to \$50,000.

This committee has a choice today: you can defeat LD 276 and agitate a few manufacturers and dealers who make big bucks on these machines, or you can pass LD 276 and agitate thousands of private landowners who own the land where these ATV owners ride. If passed, there will certainly be hundreds of miles of trails closed.

To me, I could not care less about how big the manufacturers want to build these machines – but if they try to ride them on our lands, we will close the trails. It is very tenuous situation, anyway, because we get tired of picking up the trash that some of the ATV riders litter our lands with.

Your choice – vote for the big machines and hundreds of miles of closed trails – or vote to support the thousands of private landowners and keep those trails open. It should be a simple common-sense choice. Everyone needs to remember that it is a privilege to ride ATVs on privately owned lands – not a right. Abuse our land and we will take that privilege away.

Thank you.

James L. Robbins
Robbins Lumber Inc.
Searsmont, Maine
Tel: 207-745-1482