



Dear Maine Legislators, my name is Mike Grass Jr., and I am the President of the Maine Snowmobile Association. My “job” and the mission of MSA is to promote snowmobiling, oversee issues that affect snowmobiling and educate the snowmobilers of Maine.

LD-280 “An act to raise the snowmobile registration rate” was introduced by MSA after many discussions with club volunteers, groomers and riders. Our membership voted to pursue the increase of \$10 for residents (season) and \$20 non-resident (season). The 3 and 10 day non resident registrations would also increase \$20.

Maine Snowmobile Club volunteers maintain almost 14,000 miles of snowmobile trail all over the state. These volunteers are under tremendous pressure every winter to produce quality snowmobile trails for folks from all over the northeast to come and enjoy. Every winter their costs for maintaining those trails increase with the price of fuel, groomer maintenance and other costs they can’t control. Along with that, the costs of the average larger groomers has risen from the \$150,000-\$195,000 range up to \$210,000-\$280,000 in just the past few years, making it harder and harder for clubs to purchase new equipment.

The proposed registration increase would help in both these areas as the \$10 resident increase would see \$5 of each registration go into the “Trail Grooming Grant Fund” which reimbursed clubs for grooming, brushing and signing trails. The other \$5 would go into the “Capital Equipment Fund” which helps clubs purchase new equipment for grooming. Non Resident increases of \$20 would also be split in half for each fund. Increasing the fees to \$50 (resident) and \$120 (non resident) annually would help clubs keep pace with the ever increasing costs of doing “snowmobile business” in Maine. \$120 for non residents is still less

expensive for our neighboring state residents than registering in their own state!

288 Snowmobile clubs in Maine invest about \$5-\$6 million dollars annually to make those 14,000 miles of snowmobile trails in Maine happen with an economic impact of the state of Maine of \$606 million in direct and indirect spending. Keeping those clubs able to “do the business of snowmobiling” is very important to Maine’s economy, especially in the rural areas of Maine, keeping restaurants, repair shops, motels, cabins and all the small businesses connected to snowmobiling open through the winter months. This registration increase is a step we must take to keep up with inflation and the costs of “doing snowmobile business”.

The Maine Snowmobile Association has voted to bring this bill to you and we would urge you to approve it for all the Maine Snowmobile Clubs, their volunteers, snowmobilers and all the businesses connected to making snowmobiling happen in Maine each winter.

Sincerely, Mike Grass Jr., President, Maine Snowmobile Association