



To the Honorable 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature

The Maine Snowmobile Association proudly stands here today to support LD-280, an Act to Support an Increase in Snowmobile Registrations. MSA is a 53 year organization proudly representing 288 clubs at promoting, educating safety related and in this case, economically supporting this industry in Maine. At our November meeting, the directors voted to move forward with this strong organized proposal. Current world conditions, state maintained data and Maine's economic results clearly demonstrate this importance.

As no surprise, MSA and clubs income have not only stalled, but in many cases completely been curtailed. While our clubs and volunteers are some of the most resourceful on the planet, fundraisers such as bingo, landowner's dinners and open clubhouses have been off the table completely. On a similar front, MSA also lost our annual show that is our primary source to sustaining our lobbyist and executive director. This timing could also not be worse. Five years ago, MSA stated clearly that we would revisit our rates in 5 years. Coupled with the pandemic, that day is here.

In 2012, MSA supported PL-48, a resolve to have the Snowmobile Program clearly document the dollars paid by our registrations. Not only has the program met the need, they clearly have rung the over achieve bell producing documentation of clubs costs and expenditures to the penny. Through this process, MSA and the snowmobile program have built a better relationship other states are striving for. This data clearly shows the continued backwards path and can clearly be explained by the program. While clearly this is not the place for an "atta boy", the MSA would strongly like to thank the snowmobile program for this concrete data further showing this dire need for LD-280.

The proof of this importance could not be any more evident than the Economic Impact study released on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This collaborative 2 year project astounded a return for Maine of 606 Million dollars in the 2019 season. It easily becomes evident scanning our above mentioned data highlighting only an input of barely 5 million. This is clearly an no brainer and all that can be said here is "Thank you Landowners" for this incredible industry.

In its simplest form, LD-280 is displayed as "Snowmobilers asking Snowmobilers to economically support Snowmobiling".

Please consider supporting the MSA, our clubs and our volunteers with positive support for LD-280

John Monk

Legislative Representative/ Past President 18-19