

To All Members of the IFW Committee regarding LD 1439 An Act To Clarify All-terrain Vehicle Registration Requirements and Establish Regular Maintenance of Designated State-approved All-terrain Vehicle Trails

We were able to attend all but the first two Task Force Meetings from 2019 where we were able to see the members working diligently for a positive outcome for the ATV Community and our landowners. We were also able to attend all meetings/work sessions of the 129<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature IF&W Committee prior to its abrupt closure in March 2020. We submitted much of the below information to those members of the Committee (7 of whom are still members) and testified at the Public Hearing in favor of the legislation. We respectfully request your positive consideration of this legislation, and will be doing our best to follow it.

For your info: We are 2 ATV riders that are members of 5 ATV Clubs (Friends & Neighbors ATV Club in Palermo/Liberty (we are officers); Mid Coast ATV Club in Searsmont; Thorndike Trail Blazers ATV Club; St Agatha ATV Club; Central Maine Trailblazers). We own 2 Polaris Sportsmen 850 two up machines (ATV, not side by side). We are retired, and enjoy ATVing. We travel to St. Agatha in the St. John Valley 2 times a year and spend at least 4 days riding, usually putting on 500 miles each trip along with 10 other people. We stay at the Long Lake Motor Inn and eat 2 meals a day out on the economy. When at home we ride whenever we can, putting on 40-100 miles per trip. We ride the DownEast Sunrise Trail from Ellsworth to Machias (and beyond), and the State Railbed from Newport to Dover Foxcroft (and beyond). We make many rides out of the Frye Mountain Wildlife Management Area. We ride many other club trails that are not railbed as well. We purchase fuel and food each time. We do several ATV Charity rides each season. In 2019 (the last year such rides were held), rides benefited the Travis Mills Foundation, the Whistle Stop Toy Run out of Farmington for needy children in that area, the Unity Fire Department, and the Apple Orchard ride out of Five Fields Farm in Bridgton which also benefited a local charity. We rode 2100 miles during the 2019 season. 2020 saw us riding even more. We started May 15, 2020 and rode until December 3, putting 2900 miles on our machines. We rode many new trails to us in several areas of the State including the Ripley area, more trails off the Downeast Sunrise Trail, and spent 2 days in southern Aroostook County. We know we are not alone. Many other ATV riders do the same. ATV riding has given us the opportunity to see areas of the State of Maine that would otherwise be closed to us. We would be willing to pay the \$25 registration increase if it meant we would keep our trail system.

Thank you for your time.

Kerry & Deborah Scates  
Palermo, Maine  
kscates@fairpoint.net