

Cummings, Valerie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 11:32 AM
Subject: In regard to bill HB 683

Dear House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee member,

Thank you for taking the time to read my remarks in regard to bill HB683.

My name is Justin Ingold. My grandparents moved to Warner, New Hampshire in the 1940's and bought the land up on Joppa Rd. where I grew up and where my family still lives today. From the days of my childhood until now the variety and frequency of motorized recreational vehicles using our forests has blown up. While our family has always enjoyed the nature that surrounds us by hiking and cross country skiing through it, I do remember as a child the Warner 'Trail Snails' snowmobile club would occasionally snowmobile by. They were nice folks and a part of our community. When we'd see them we'd wave and they'd stop and say hello. My Dad had gone to grade school with some of them. Our school bus driver was a member.

Next came the dirt bikes and then the three wheelers (remember them?), which were quickly replaced by the four wheelers. While the increased frequency of these vehicle's loud motors blotting out the peace and quiet was frustrating and the more and more common occurrences of people flying around a corner at us walkers and skiers much too fast could be scary- we accepted it because still, we believed, these were, by and large, members of our community.

Nowadays that has clearly changed. Nowadays, everyday, throughout the day, motorized vehicles can be heard screaming and echoing throughout the hills. These are no longer members of our community. Many are not even from our state. It seems given the opportunity, these motorized recreational vehicle drivers would take their 'sport' to every piece of untouched beauty that they are allowed. I think that's the goal. Most would claim to love nature, claiming that's why they like driving through the forests. But they are really ruining them. I've seen it first hand...from the front lines. The trails are getting torn up, the sounds of nature drown out, people on machines are bombing through the woods as fast as they can. There is noticeably more trash building up out there. I'm not claiming that they throw more trash around than any other demographic, it's just that there are so many of them now and the places that used to take us a rugged but rewarding half day to hike or ski to, they get to in a matter of minutes and in larger and larger numbers.

In the past I have driven both a snowmobile and a four wheeler. It was a lot of fun, quite frankly, but I never kidded myself that in doing so I was in any way a shepherd of the natural world around me. It was part of a job I was working to pay my rent, while making a very unnatural racket, scaring away any wildlife I might hope to see and spewing a lot of carbon monoxide out behind me in the process. I'm sure using these motorized vehicles for recreational purposes is even more fun. But sometimes the costs of fun are too high. Someone has to think about the future and protect what can't protect itself.

In my opinion this is a problem that has already grown out of hand and now I hear rumblings that some large ATV interests would like to push things further and are encouraging the development of our forest into some sort of an ATV destination park. In the name of our village's harmony I hope to always accept that local members of our community will use their recreational vehicles in Warner's forests. But once we allow these forests to become an ATV destination park, drawing in even more people from even further away, good luck trying to ever get things back to the peace and serenity that has drawn people to the natural world throughout history. Once it's gone it's gone.

The public woods are here to be enjoyed by everyone and I welcome anyone and everyone to come and explore the wilderness; to experience the sanctity of nature by hiking, skiing, mountain biking or partaking in any other activity that doesn't shatter that special peace which only such wilderness can provide. It's still

beautiful and we who live here have tried to protect it for future generations to enjoy. Your kids and mine. But now it would seem that we need your help. Some allies in our state government. As people who have dedicated yourselves to public service and the sustainable management of our public lands, I'd be grateful if you'd look out for us. Supporting bill HB683 is a solid step in that direction.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]