

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 5:04 PM
To: Sheehan, Victoria
Subject: Need to return to responsible OHRV use in the North Country

Commissioner Victoria Sheehan, Department Of Transportation,

We are writing in support of the legislative bills brought forth by Representative Wayne Moynihan which seek to return balance to OHRV use and proliferation in New Hampshire's North Country, specifically to respect the property rights for Gorham residents and affected others. As a democratic society, communications between citizens are fundamental to successfully make changes that can either benefit or injure a population. Acceptable, responsible, and transparent due process was not followed as the changes to OHRV use and trail development occurred in the North Country. This deprived many thoughtful, caring residents of a voice in the development of their communities and resulted in an expansion of OHRV's on roadways, in neighborhoods, and on trails which severely impact people's quality of life. Expansion in this one sided manner has created great divisions and challenges for small communities where residents instead should enjoy the benefits of thoughtful interactions.

As a populous, we need to consider many points of view for the development of recreation and use of natural assets. These vehicles are adversely affecting the towns and residents of the North Country at the moment, but this would not happen if the growth was planned with only willing partners and on lands that don't negatively impact other uses. Many uses of our natural resources can nicely share space and trails. Due to the noise, dust, and alterations to the landscape, OHRV's cannot. The growth of this recreational sport certainly can have a place in the North Country and many people enjoy this activity, but it cannot infringe upon the rights of land owners and their property values and cannot proliferate in a way that prohibits the other important recreational activities for which our mountains and trails are so well known. Keeping these vehicles off the Presidential Rail Trail is exceedingly important to maintaining other current uses that now work nicely together to continue.

As Jefferson, NH residents, we use Gorham as our town for services. We travel through this community on a regular basis and know many residents. The proliferation of OHRV's on town roads and in parking lots near residents' homes is entirely inappropriate. The noise, dust, and local congestion is not in keeping with rural living and does not respect residents of the North Country.

Additionally, unlicensed riders pose a real danger on public roadways with other vehicles. We have seen youth well below the age of licensure on OHRV's on public roadways. They don't have the training to be in this situation, and we believe it is just a matter of time until a tragic incident occurs. Our state should be a responsible model for OHRV operation that takes the safety of riders and the welfare of unsuspecting drivers seriously. We have changed much of our town use to Lancaster during certain times of the year, as coming to Gorham for errands and other activities, such as dinner out, is not desirable.

Representative Moynihan's bills will limit and direct OHRV use in a manner that brings balance to the region for residents, other recreationists that are also important to the region's economic welfare, and for the safety of riders. We support these bills that define the responsible growth of this industry in the region. Thank you very much to your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Jefferson, NH



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