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From: Laura Conchelos [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 7:21 PM
To: HouseTransportationCommittee@leg.state.nh.us; Sheehan, Victoria
Subject: Regarding HB 1688, 1427, 1156 and 1438

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To the House Transportation Committee and Victoria Sheehan (DOT)

Since you will be discussing some bills related to OHRV use in the State, I'd like to pass on my thoughts:

First, I cannot believe that OHRVs are only subject to Fish and Game tickets when they are being used on public roads. I personally believe that as they are "off-road" vehicles and should not be driven on public roads and highways, nor should they be driven by children without licenses. I am a former resident of Gorham but now live in CO. One of our local towns that does have an ATV route through it, requires that riders possess driver's licenses and stick to a maximum speed of 15 mph.

If OHRVs are on our roads (and again, I don't think they should be), they should have to abide by the same rules of the road that automobile drivers must abide by, speed limits and all. Please support HB 1688 and throw out HB 1438.

Secondly, in regards to HB 1427, there is a process that should be followed in order to open roads to OHRVs. It should allow input from those homeowners and landowners that will be affected by OHRV use in their vicinity.

Lastly, please don't use taxpayer dollars to create yet another committee, HB 1156. Simply fund the studies required by Bill 660 last session. And be sure to include the input from landowners that abut Ride the Wild trails. This is again an issue of property value and health of local residents. Any study should include the impact, positive and negative RtW has on it's neighbors.

I haven't lived in Gorham since OHRVs were allowed on public roads, the state highway and the Gorham rail trail but I have been back to visit since. The OHRV use in town has had a negative impact on the feel of the town in my mind. I am by no means anti-atv but I don't see why they cannot be trailered to the trailheads like they were when I lived there. I get that it's appealing to be able to drive from your motel to the trailhead but if it's hurting the local residents, it's far from worth it. Gorham will still benefit economically from OHRV use on the trails without them being able to ride on public roads and the rail trail. It did before that was allowed.

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