

Statement for the Environment Committee Friday March 12 at 10:30am Room 2B

My name is Doug Nagan, I reside in Deep River CT and am a motorsports enthusiast and am secretary of the Connecticut Motorsports Business Association. Before starting I would like to thank you, Representative Roy and Senator Meyer and the rest of the committee, for the opportunity to provide my observations.

ATV riders have been promised space for 24 years under a law that is on the books. If you are wondering why voters become cynical about government think about this - a promise made by you, the legislature, to your constituents which has been, to be charitable, sat on by the DEP for twenty four years. During these twenty four years approximately \$1Billion has been spent on open space acquisition, surely some of that could be used to fulfill a statutory requirement. Also consider the lost sales tax revenue of up to \$63,000 per year, \$1.5 Million over 24 years, and registration fees approaching \$2,450,000 per year.

This committee faces a difficult problem in balancing use of our states land versus preserving it for future use. However, you also have the responsibility to see that the land is not the exclusive province for certain interests but available for all residents.

Many of the arguments against ATV's seem rooted in some romantic notion of primeval utopia. Realities are much more complex. Horse trails are genuflected to never mind the harm done to fragile surface root systems by the damage from a steel horseshoe driven into the ground by a thousand pounds of horseflesh versus the damage from a rolling rubber tire. Also a horse produces approximately 18 kg of methane per year whilst a modern ATV produces roughly the same 18kg given average use over a year. And this does not even begin to address horse waste products. If viewed dispassionately horse vs. ATV is not as simple as some would have you believe.

I thank you for this opportunity to present my views.