

My name is Arthur Shaw. I live in Lisbon. I've been a member of the Central Cycle Club since 2008. I have been the Chair of the Woods Committee since 2009. The Central Cycle Club has over 300 members that participate in a variety of motorcycling activities.

My principle responsibility is to support the Pachaug Trail System. The Central Cycle Club has assisted in maintaining the Pachaug trail for 37 years. This trail is only available to registered motorcycles and NOT DIRT BIKES. The trail is on state owned land and successfully self-governed.

The success of the motorcycle trail system in the Pachaug State Forest is a shining example of how the process works.

Little to no State monies have been expended on that trail system in the 37 years that it has existed, because volunteers, and volunteer organizations do virtually all the work.

Mike Mercier a member of the Central Cycle Club since 1969 and Board of Trustee noted in 2005 to the Environmental Committee, "I know of no expense that the State has paid to perform any maintenance or oversight. We've not had to hire any additional conservation officers or personnel to manage that system."

A dirt bike by design has no headlight. It has no taillight. It is designed for closed course or motocross track use and cannot be registered for the street. The Central Cycle Club maintains a separate property in Central Village, CT for dirt bike riding activities. It is the oldest track in Connecticut. There are no trails that exist on public land to support recreational or competitive dirt bike riding eastern Connecticut.

My comments on the bill, in concept I can support the titling of dirt bikes and fines if an account is created for revenues to be used to establish programs to benefit dirt bike riding in Connecticut.

Currently, all dirt biking is conducted on private property generally supported by clubs. Riding is not allowed on public roads or on state property. The dirt bikes come from the dealers with Certificates of Origin and other documentation that clearly identify ownership. The dirt bikes also possess Vehicle Identification numbers which are used to identify them if reported stolen.

I noted earlier that I support the bill in concept. Any vehicle operated on state-owned land or public roads should be controlled. However, to tax private citizens to operate their own vehicle on their own or private property is something I will absolutely not support.

Proposed Bill Number 190 clearly identifies an issue. However, heavy fines and a titling tax process with no vision towards securing areas for recreational riding and training provide no foreseeable benefit in this circumstance.

Insurance and registration is a concern to me. It's a concern because dirt bikes are only operated on private land in eastern Connecticut. They cannot be registered.

It will never be on state-owned land. It will always be on private property. It is a tax that does not benefit the people who must pay it.

I also fear that heavy fines will actually have an inverse effect on the community safety. If a violator is aware of the fining process they will expend more effort to avoid prosecution. This could lead to more reckless behavior rather than less. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.