

The Honorable Sen. _____
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

RE: 2004 ATV Trail Program & Funding Proposal

Dear Senator _____,

I am an ATV/trail bike rider and a voter in your district and want to bring to your attention the matter of Legislation that I would like you to support. The Executive Budget calls for the direction of a portion of each ATV registration fee collected by DMV to a trail fund and provides that cities, towns, villages, counties, and organizations may apply for monies from the fund for the development and maintenance of all terrain vehicle trails and facilities in the various counties of the state. DEC would be directed to run the program to address our needs while protecting the environment.

Specifically I ask that you **promote a dedicated funding account instead of an appropriation**. Furthermore, **the split of the new \$45 registration fee must be made more equitable** in par with the registration fee split proposed for snowmobilers in the Budget. Addressing these two matters in the final State Budget will make a good proposal great and ensure the ATV Program's effectiveness in getting the job done. Any less funding or the Legislature's failure to annually renew the funding would result in the program falling short of everyone's expectations.

So that I may have a legal place to ride my ATV or trail bike, a trail program and fund is needed to support ATV trail development and maintenance. By directing funding to private/easement and municipal lands, State lands are protected. And for clubs trying to develop trails on private land, where most of the trail should go, they face a difficult funding problem without passage of this law. This proposal would establish a program and funding mechanism analogous to the very successful snowmobile trail program that supports the vast network of official state trails. The State and ATV users like me will benefit much in the same ways as we have with the snowmobile trail fund.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

My address: