



New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition

An affiliate of the Bike-Walk Alliance of NH

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To: House Resource, Recreation and Development Committee

From: New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition

Date: January 27, 2020

Subject: HB 1165 and HB 1426: relative to OHRVs on rail trails

The NHRTC supports the summertime active use of New Hampshire's Rail Trails. The development of rail corridors for walkers and cyclists improves both community health and economic growth. The NHRTC board urges the committee to pass both HB 1165 and HB 1426 to protect the state rail trails for the health, safety and well-being of non-motorized trail users and abutting property owners.

HB 1165 will bring the Gorham section of the Presidential Range Rail Trail back into compliance with existing law: [RSA 215-A:42 I \(d\)](#) *A management plan exists for the property that specifically allows ATV or trail bike use on the property and the ATV or trail bike trail does not otherwise conflict w/ the management plan.* The Presidential Range Rail Trail Management Plan (attached) clearly prohibits OHRVs.

HB 1426 will require OHRV clubs to test rail trails for toxins and hazard dust before opening to OHRVs. The aggressive tires of OHRVs churn up trails; in the case of rail beds, this means releasing hazardous dust to be breathed in by abutting taxpaying residents and all other trail users. To open rail trails to OHRVs without testing in the face of known toxins is a failure of due diligence.

Please vote OTP for these bills. Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

NH Rail Trails Coalition Board,
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Charles Martin, Vice President, New London
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