

I understand that there is the possibility of increasing the State funding for ATV use. I just wanted to express my disapproval for any funding that seeks to expand the use of ATV's on public property. I am an occasional ATV rider, but I adamantly oppose allowing ATV's access to public lands. These areas are supposed to be maintained as pristine areas, not motocross tracks. ATV use has destroyed some marvelous hiking, jogging, horseback riding and skiing trails in Wisconsin. Our public lands are supposed to be for EVERYONE to enjoy. ATV use prevents everyone except a small number of ATV owners from enjoying the areas.

Thank you for taking my point of view into consideration.

Ryan Schryver [ryanschryver@gmail.com]

Dear Senator Breske

Please vote no on extra ATV funding legislation.

- 1) Any increase in ATV funding should focus solely on repairing ATV damage on public lands and trails as well as private property. This includes so-called multi-use trails that are used by ATVs and are no longer suitable for other intended uses, such as bicycling, hiking and providing access to people with disabilities.
- 2) There is a need to explore a funding mechanism for silent sports in order to expand opportunities and protect natural resources since these activities are many times more popular than ATVing yet their impact on the landscape is negligible.

Sincerely,
Kirsten Moore
Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association
One Point Place, Suite 101
Madison, WI 53719
Phone: 608-833-1833
FAX: 608-833-7179
kirsten@wlwca.org
www.wlwca.org

From: Marjorie King Studio and The Madison Group [mailto:dougmargin@tds.net]
Sent: Sat 12/23/2006 7:39 PM
To: Sen. Breske
Subject: RE: Please Do Not Support ATV Use of Bicycle Trails



THE MADISON GROUP™

A Private Practice in the Public Interest™

Dr. Douglas B. King and Associates

991 Perry Center Road, Mount Horeb, Wisconsin 53572

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December 23, 2006

Senator Roger Breske
Sen.breske@legis.wisconsin.gov
(608) 266-2509 Capitol 316 South

ATTENTION: Members, Special Committee of State Trails Policy

RE: Year Round ATV Access to State Trails

Dear Senator Breske:

You have probably been getting lots of mail regarding what kinds of uses should be allowed on bike trails. Thought we would put in our two cents worth too. We do a lot of bicycling on the trails and have found that it is very difficult to enjoy it when other uses are allowed on them for several common sense reasons.

First, while we love horses and have ridden them ourselves, it is not possible to safely ride on a trail that has divots and depressions from horse hoofs. It is also not very pleasant to ride through horse manure that has become greasy after wet weather.

Second, motorized vehicles should not be permitted on bicycle trails period. It is not possible to enjoy the peace and quiet of a bike ride while listening to noisy engines. It is not possible to breath fresh air while inhaling oily exhaust fumes especially if you are riding hard or up a hill and breathing deeply. And finally, it is just plain dangerous. Maybe some day someone will offer a quiet electric ATV that has a governor on it with a top speed equal to the top speed of a bicycle. That would be fine. Until then, pedestrians have the right of way

over bicycles. Bicycles have the right of way over ATVs. Unfortunately there are enough ATV riders who think they own the trail that they can roar past a bike rider two inches away or crawl up on a bike rider while impatiently waiting for him to get up a long incline.

We have nearly been killed on several occasions in the middle of nowhere by such people and wished they were required to wear nice big tags like hunters so we could report their license numbers. We would like to see such a requirement for ATVs (and snowmobiles too for that matter). We think this is one situation where you just cannot because the competing uses are simply incompatible. That is why we have lakes and zones on lakes in Wisconsin that are designated as no-motor, or electric motor only, or no-wake — because such uses are incompatible with fishing, canoeing and sailing. Bike trails are bike trails for the same reason.

Good luck with this one. We hope you will work to keep bike trails for bikes. Thanks for listening. Good luck trying to make everyone happy! :):)

Best Wishes,
Doug and Margie King

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12/26/2006

To whom it may concern:

I fully oppose the use of ATV's on Wisconsin Trail Systems. Is nothing sacred anymore? I would like to continue having places to escape from the noises of society and be able to see wildlife. ATV's would make this impossible. They would also damage the flora and fauna. Please take this into consideration.

Thank you very much,

Paula Menting
Menting, Paula S (Student) [menting9427@fvtc.edu]

Dear Senator Breske,

I sent the following letter to the Fond du Lac County Board members before they voted on whether or not to allow ATVs on the Eisenbahn Trail in the winter. On December 19, they voted against their use, 26 to 9.

Note: one committee member of 5 changed his mind after recommending ATVs on the trail at the December 6 meeting. He voted NO to ATVs December 19.

Dear County Board Member,

I was very unhappy with the December 6 meeting of the Parks and Development Committee. Not one member on the Committee voted against ATVs on the Eisenbahn Trail during the winter. Not one member did the right thing. Not one member stood up for the overwhelming majority of trail users. Not one member realizes or admitted the inherently destructive nature of ATVs. Not one member defended a brand new trail- a trail not designed or intended for motorized use. The Committee's recommendation was wrong.

The Committee Chairman was wrong. Just because "ATVs are a growing industry" (as he said) doesn't mean we should encourage this activity which by its very nature is unsafe and destructive to our resources. June 23, 2006, a presentation before the Natural Resources Board called "ATVs in Wisconsin" concluded that "the economic impact report on ATV riding did not take into account the true cost of law enforcement, environmental damage, nuisance and other undesirable aspects.

When balanced with these costs it is doubtful that the economic impact of ATV riding in Wisconsin is a net gain."

How can ATVs be allowed on a limestone trail and a brand new one at that?

Have you personally ever seen the destruction ATVs do to the ground? I have.

Did you read the December 8 article in the Reporter about the increasing problems over the past few years Dodge County (Goose Trail) is having from ATVs causing damage and creating hazards with more and more tire ruts from purposely spinning tires and digging into the trails? THIS DAMAGE IS OCCURRING DURING THE WINTER SEASON. AGAIN: TRAIL DAMAGE FROM ATVS IS INCREASING ON THE GOOSE TRAIL IN DODGE COUNTY AND IT IS DURING THE WINTER.

Why would the County Board want to recreate these problems here in Fond du Lac County by approving ATV use on the Eisenbahn in the winter? Isn't it wiser to preserve and protect the integrity of the trail rather than repair it from the inevitable damage?

It is your duty to keep our wonderful trails safe and free from abuse. Motorized vehicles will destroy them even in the winter- look at Dodge County.

Just go to Google, type in "ATV damage to trails" and you will see all the damage ATVs are doing across the country. They are becoming the greatest threat to our nation's natural areas.

In some places the problem has become a crisis. At the meeting I was disturbed by the ATV users. I sat behind a group of them, including the 2 men from the ATV club who spoke at the beginning of the meeting. The group snickered and laughed every time a citizen spoke about ATV damage he/she had witnessed. They just didn't care. I found their laughing very revealing.

Our natural world is quickly disappearing. Please do not contribute to this.

The vast majority of trail users (walkers, joggers, runners, pet walkers, wildlife viewers, horse riders, bikers, skiers, families...) does not support ATVs on our trails in any season of the year.

Shirley Clements

Fond du Lac
clements1@charter.net

Dear Senator Breske,

1- Any increase in ATV funding should focus solely on repairing ATV damage on public lands and trails as well as private property. This includes so-called multi-use trails that are used by ATVs and are no longer suitable for other intended uses, such as bicycling, hiking and providing access to people with disabilities.

2- There is a need to explore a funding mechanism for silent sports in order to expand opportunities and protect natural resources since these activities are many times more popular than ATVing yet their impact on the landscape is negligible.

Please protect our natural heritage for the future.

Shirley Clements, Fond du Lac
clements1@charter.net

Hello:

As a long time "silent sports" person, I'm not in favor of any more damage to any existing walking, skiing and hiking trails. I've seen the mess that these things have caused to some favorite grouse hunting trails, and it's pretty disgusting. I'm sure most of the damage is caused by people who are too damned lazy to actually get out and walk these trails and hunt, and would rather just drive and make a mess. I'm speaking as an actual ATV owner who uses it as a work vehicle on my own property, to mainly haul up firewood. But I'm careful to not use it when too wet, so as to minimize trail damage to my own woods. I would appreciate it if others could use the same concern.

Jay Johnson
redthread@alexssa.net

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1) Any increase in ATV funding should focus solely on repairing ATV damage on public lands and trails as well as private property. This includes so-called multi-use trails that are used by ATVs and are no longer suitable for other intended uses, such as bicycling, hiking and providing access to people with disabilities.

2) There is a need to explore a funding mechanism for silent sports in order to expand opportunities and protect natural resources since these activities are many times more popular than ATVing yet their impact on the landscape is negligible.

Alexandra West, Product Specialist

P: 262.338.6101 x166 | F: 262.338.0423 | Alexandra.i.west@rrd.com |

From: Bob Craig [<mailto:bobcraig@mailbag.com>]

Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2006 2:23 PM

To: Piliouras, Elizabeth

Subject: ATV's on bike trails

We tried to ride our bikes on the ATV trail that goes west from Monroe a couple of years ago. We made it for a quarter of a mile or so and had to give it up because the cleats on the tires of the ATV's chew up the crushed-stone limerock surface so that you don't want to ride a bike. Wisconsin now has really good bike trails. Don't ruin their surfaces with ATV's!!!

Bob Craig

5310 Raymond Road, Madison, Wisconsin, 53711.

Dear Ms. Piliouras:

I have read the proposed agenda for the January 4, 2007 meeting regarding proposed changes in funding and legislation for ATV and trails. Like many who commented on earlier agendas for the Special Committee on State Trails, I too am concerned about the appropriation of funds from ATV users not earmarked for repair of the damage caused by ATVs on public trails and private property. I am also concerned that the proposals do not adequately address the needs of other trail users on multi-use trails. While the funding from other users, such as bicycles, walkers and hikers is much lower, the impacts are much, much lower. The focus on ATV funding used for expansion of trails for ATVs is not appropriate until greater attention is made to the existing damage the ATVs are causing to public and private lands.

The proposed text as described in the 12/20/06 bill draft regarding ATV damage reimbursement is insufficient with regard to the amount of current damage that has been caused and creates too many barriers to reimbursement. For example, under the draft text:

"The department may pay a claim under this subsection only if the damage to the property was caused by the operation of all-terrain vehicles in an area not designated as an all-terrain vehicle route or all-terrain vehicle trail, the applicant has made reasonable efforts to identify the responsible individual and obtain payment from the individual, and the applicant has made reasonable efforts to prevent reoccurrence."

I'm concerned that damage to all-terrain vehicle routes and trails, especially multi-use trails, will be inadequately funded because of the above-referenced exclusion. The high susceptibility of limestone-screened trails, in particular, to damage from ATVs and my observation that insufficient repair work is currently being done in Wisconsin to these trails makes me question if the funding mechanism should be strengthened in the draft bill. I respectfully request that all ATV funds are used to repair existing ATV damage prior to their use to expand trails.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Peter J. Taglia
718 W. Brittingham Place
Madison, WI 53715

Attached is a presentation I recently gave to the Fond du Lac County board to keep ATV's off local walking/biking trails. I do not feel the state needs to be spending money to promote ATV use. If you would like to further discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me at (920) 922-2331 or clementso@agnesian.com. Thank-you! Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Oliver Clements MD

(See posted presentation)

Dear Senator Breske,

Our family participates in all silent sports and enjoys the silence of our natural areas. We also own a small dwelling in the Chequamegon National Forest and are very concerned about the damage that off road vehicles do to our ecosystems. We seek solace in the silence and have been assaulted by the constant noise of the ATVs that have been given permission to use our town roads. We fight the ATVs in particular because they can go anywhere anytime. Snowmobiles are restricted to the season and their trails.

Please consider that:

- 1) Any increase in ATV funding should focus solely on repairing ATV damage on public lands and trails as well as private property. This includes so-called multi-use trails that are used by ATVs and are no longer suitable for other intended uses, such as bicycling, hiking and providing access to people with disabilities.
- 2) There is a need to explore a funding mechanism for silent sports in order to expand opportunities and protect natural resources since these activities are many times more popular than ATVing yet their impact on the landscape is negligible.

Sincerely,

Caroline Torinus
West Bend, Wisconsin

Senator Breske, This e-mail concerns the increase funding for ATV's at Jan 4th meeting. Just felt it was important to send this to you because Fond du Lac County was facing year around use of the ATV trails on the exact trails we use for our silent sports. More funding to ATV 's and it could be a reality in years to come. They will be on the same trails you use in your county. I seen it occur in Washburn County. Since 1988 I have been going there. In 1988 next to none of the county was ATV ready. With funding , now the majority of the county is ATV ready and used a lot. For me it is sad to see. I am sure others are happy. I have been pushed into a smaller, and smaller public tract in that county to do what I do. The area is called "Walk In" only. If ATV's had use of only this area they could circle the entire area in less then 10 min.. It would take me weeks to mountain bike the area they get to use. Upset! You bet I am. I could go on and on and on with the stories. I did nothing from 1988 till now. Now the ATV's chased me from my Cabin door in Washburn County 300 miles away. To the city were I live in. It has to end!

By the way I owned an ATV for years. Used it on private land. Can beat them join them. Took it for a ride once on the trails In Washburn Cty and "shock by what I saw". Total destruction of marshes/streams I could go on. This was only a 15 mile ride. Yes I sold it soon after.

Silent Sports needs your help!

*****I would like to see more funding go to the purchase of "Walk In" areas only. And money sepent to patrol these areas to keep the ATVS out.

Bill Mahlik
852 Estate Dr
Fond du Lac Wi 54935

Dear Senator Breske,

Just a brief note regarding the consideration of funds for ATV's. I would highly recommend that any funds would be directed only toward repairing the damage they have already done. In our area, Bayfield and Sawyer counties, there is a constant demand for new trails while the old trails deteriorate. Some trails are multi-use and the ATVs have made them unusable for other users while the ATV only trails are an eyesore and cause erosion. I think their record as being irresponsible is quite well established and it is time that there is some enforceable restraints on them that require trail repair before new trails are established.

Sincerely,
Irv and Jan Berlin
Cable, WI
Irv [imberlin@cheqnet.net]

Re: Jan 4 meeting on ATV policies.

Message to Senator Breske:

Thanks for your hard work in getting a handle on the ATV issue. I've read through most of the proposals that will be before your group on Jan 4. I get a little lost in the legal wording of the documents, but it seems you are making a concerted effort to "tame the beast".

I would encourage the following:

- 1) increase ATV funding - from ATV users, and use the money to repair damage already done.
- 2) ATV's do not co-exist with non-motorized recreation. ATV's need there own space.
- 3) "Silent sport" users of public lands far outnumber ATV users. Is there some way to achieve an equitable budget for both groups?

The documents submitted by Brook Waalen (Testimony, 11/9/06, and ATV facts 11/10/06, are especially interesting.

Wisconsin has some incredible public land resources. I absolutely love it, and use it alot.

Thanks again,
Tom Ries
1722 Ridge Rd
Sheboygan, WI 53083
Tom Ries [tries@charter.net]

Please help put silent sports folks on a level playing field with the motorized ATV types.

- 1) Any increase in ATV funding should focus solely on repairing ATV damage on public lands and trails as well as private property. This includes so-called multi-use trails that are used by ATVs and are no longer suitable for other intended uses, such as bicycling, hiking and providing access to people with disabilities.

- 2) There is a need to explore a funding mechanism for silent sports in order to expand opportunities and protect natural resources since these activities are many times more popular than ATV'ing yet their impact on the landscape is negligible.

Best Regards and Merry Christmas,

Robb Johnson

Johnson, Robb [rmjoi@serigraph.com]

I am writing to you regarding the continuing efforts of the ATV lobby to increase funding for ATV trails in Wisconsin. I ask that you forward my comments to other members of your committee.

The expansion of the trail system for motor vehicles is not good public policy. Motor vehicles drive non-motor vehicle users from trails not only because the vehicles pose a danger to hikers and others, but also because the noise, pollution and erosion that result from motor vehicle use make the experience for hikers and others unacceptable. At a time when health care costs are out of control, we should be encouraging healthful activities such as hiking and walking. More use by ATVs will discourage these healthful activities.

In addition to the negative effect on healthful outdoor activities, ATV use increases trail maintenance cost because of the serious erosion they cause. At a time when government is struggling to finance state parks and other public facilities for recreation, encouraging ATV use makes no sense.

To me it makes more sense to fund healthful activities that have little or no impact on the environment or on the public maintenance budget. Let's develop a funding mechanism to encourage people to walk, hike, bike and engage in other healthful activities.

Thank you.

Michael Crosser
President, Friends of the Kettle Moraine State Forest

Michael L Crosser [mbcrosso@powercom.net]

Hello!

I am a 53 year old woman who takes a 15 mile ride on the bike trail near Belgium every Sunday. I also take care of four profoundly retarded women in my own home.

The purpose of this email is to state my opinion on increased funding for ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles).

Any increase in ATV funding should go toward repairing ATV damage on public lands and trails as well as private property. This includes so-called multi-use trails that are used by ATVs and are no longer suitable for other intended uses, such as biking, hiking, and access for people with disabilities.

Also, rather than more money spent on motor sports, I want my tax dollars to explore a funding mechanism for silent sports in order to expand opportunities and protect natural resources. Silent sports are many times more popular (and healthful) than ATViing, yet their impact on the landscape is negligible.

Besides this email, how else may I assure that my wishes are known?

Sincerely,
Christy Smith

[Doug Aanes \[daanes@wi.rr.com\]](mailto:daanes@wi.rr.com)

Thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail. I am writing to you to protest any increase in funding for new ATV trails. ATVs are destructive to property, and I am opposed to the entire state paying for the recreation of a select few. ATVs and their riders destroy public land because their drivers can't or won't stay on the trail. The "thrill" of riding an ATV is not staying on a nice level trail. The thrill comes from the rush of speed and danger the rider gets by taking chances, like going up and down the side of the trail, or going excessively fast.

As for "multi-use trails", try taking a walk on a trail that ATVs use. You must always be alert for ATVs coming around curves or up from behind you. When they do pass, even if they slow down, the dust and gas fumes are obnoxious, not to mention dangerous. Nice to take your kids or dogs for a walk when they are in danger. It is like walking on a highway on weekends. The dust and gas fumes are also harmful to animals and wildlife, which should be our major concern.

I could go on for hours, but I think you get the idea of where I stand. Do not let the voices of a few wealthy ATVers sway you from your job of representing the MAJORITY INTERESTS OF WISCONSIN VOTERS!!!

Thank You!

Mike Bellin- Voter/Citizen
3400 Crestview Dr.
Appleton, WI 54915
920-739-7076
920-419-5893(Feel free to call!)

Mcbellinsapple@aol.com

Please forward the following to Senator Breske:

I understand there is consideration to provide more funding for ATV's. I recommend that funding, if any, be limited to repairing ATV damage to public lands.

I would also encourage a funding mechanism be established to support more "silent sports" activities including hiking, skiing and biking.

Thank you

Leigh Cherveney
235 River Oaks Drive
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

[Leigh Cherveney \[lcherveney@aerometric.com\]](mailto:lcherveney@aerometric.com)

This comment concerns the funding for ATV related activities.

I am adamantly against any funding towards additional ATV trail development, it should instead be used to repair existing ATV trails that are damaged. ATV's must be self sufficient in this matter, i.e. they must first prove that the damage they incur is being repaired and managed before any expansion of trail systems. ATV damage to trails is considerable.

Furthermore, any suggestions to use ANY trail currently used for hiking, biking, skiing or other silent sport must remain off limits to ATVs. "Multi use" scenarios where ATVs and silent sports are mixed will simply not work. Even the snowmobilers, their own Kin so to speak, do not want ATVs on their trails, that says alot.

If anything, due to the obesity crisis in the US, funding should be used for expansion of trails used for hiking, bicycling, running, xc-skiing, etc.

Tom Friedrichs
121 Guilford St.
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

[Tom Friedrichs \[tfriedrichs@cardinalenvironmental.com\]](mailto:tfriedrichs@cardinalenvironmental.com)
