



**ATV Maine**  
(Alliance for Trail Vehicles of Maine)  
**PO Box 2307**  
**Bangor, ME 04402**  
207-316-4116  
[www.atvmaine.org](http://www.atvmaine.org)  
[info@atvmaine.org](mailto:info@atvmaine.org)



John Raymond, President

Real Deschaine, Vice President

Sue Lanouette, Treasurer

Stephanie Burnham, Secretary

December 21, 2023

Dear Governor Mills, Maine Legislature, Commissioner Camuso,  
Commissioner Beal

ATV Maine and our 65 clubs with over 5000 members are writing you today to express our extreme concerns on the damage to the ATV trail system over the summer due to all the rainstorms and the last major storm in the past week. Our aging clubs have worked diligently over the summer to keep our trails open and yes some did not re-open due to the severe damage and landowner's concerns. This is why I am writing you to ask what type of support you our governor, the department of ACF and the Maine legislature can find for solutions to our trail problems that we normally handle through registrations over the years, but with the severe storms of 2023 we need help.

As you know from the ACF report of 2021 that ATViing in Maine contributed over 774 million annually and I would expect that to be even more now. We are funded only by our registrations and a little Gas Tax money; we receive no money from the general fund. This helps maintain over 5500 miles for ATV trails and some of these trails are also multi-use.

As we are working to account for all the damage that has incurred in the last wind, rain storm we are just beginning to get word back as to the damage that will need to be fixed before the next riding season that is fast approaching, some clubs are already working to fix some of the problems but with limited funds that puts a lot of financial burden on the clubs that are barely surviving. In all my years I have never seen this much destruction in one storm and to have it on the heels of several wind and rainstorms over the summer of 2023 is overwhelming to say the least.

Now more than ever I believe we need to pass the trails bond LD1156. This helps the motorized community and maybe getting a boost from the

legislature from the surplus would be great timing. Communities, businesses, and clubs throughout the state of Maine that depend on motorized recreation are at tipping point and they are just trying to recuperate from the covid years. If we can't find a way to collaborate and find solutions to this funding problem, then more businesses and more people will lose their jobs and businesses will close and we all don't want that to happen. We believe that if we all work together, we can overcome this and move our state in the right direction with help from all the good people involved with recreating in our great state of Maine.

In closing, we are ready to have the discussions, work on the solutions as quickly as possible to keep our trails system open and safe. ATV Maine is also offering the use of our lobbyist Keith Herrick to help coordinate our effort with your staff. Thanks for your time in a very busy climate of need.

Sincerely,  
John Raymond

Cc:

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry  
Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
Brian Bronson, ATV Program Supervisor, Bureau of Parks and Lands  
Carolann Ouelette Director, Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation  
Keith Herrick, Dirigo Public Affairs, Lobbyist for ATV Maine

*ATV Maine is a nonprofit organization.*