

Legislative Update

Vintage Snowmobile Permit: The vintage snowmobile legislation has been introduced in both the House and the Senate. House Bill 63 was again sponsored by Rep. Mike Hanna and was initially referred to the House Transportation Committee. The bill was considered by the Transportation Committee and re-refer to the Committee on Tourism and Recreational Development which is where I had intended to go from the outset. Senator John Wozniak is introduced Senate Bill 1027 and that legislation has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

House Bill 63 as mentioned above is currently in the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee. Two weeks ago, I was informed by the Executive Director of the Committee that the Governor's Office has raised questions regarding the bill.

I met with Joe Murzyn, one of the Governor's Deputy Legislative Secretaries to discuss the concerns and questions the administration had regarding the legislation. He indicated to me that there are concerns regarding the potential loss of revenue due to the loss of actively registered snowmobiles that fit the vintage definition registering as vintage sleds. He was interested in other state statutes as well as the potential for vintage sled owners riding illegally. I have since supplied him with copies of statutes from several states. He indicated to me that he is having difficulty scheduling time with the Governor's Policy Director that has jurisdiction over this issue and DCNR matters. It is my hope that by next week we should have some indication as to how the administration would like to proceed on this issue.

I also discussed the trail maintenance bill with him at that initial meeting as well as more recently in light of the Marcellus Policy that I believe Bob will cover with you at the board meeting. It is my belief that Joe understands and may even agree with our concerns addressed in both bills. I hope I'm not being overly optimistic.

Recreational Use Land Water Act: In the past week, Senator Folmer and Representative Dan Maul have introduced their legislation regarding the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act. Their legislation has been referred to the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee, respectively. In addition to Senate Bill 1029 and House Bill 1495 Senator Dave Argall has Senate Bill 469 Senator Argall legislation amends RULWA by adding the word trail to the definition of land. During the early development of his legislation and consideration by the Senate environmental resources and energy committee we discussed the possibility of adding portions of the Folmer bill to the Argall legislation. However, after the trial lawyers submitted objections to several

provisions prepared as an amendment senator article suggested that we work on those objections and perhaps amend the bill either in appropriations or on the floor. I forwarded a copy of those objections to Bob and Liz for their information. I am continuing to meet with members of the Senate to explain and address questions related to the provisions of the Folmer bill and the need for the updating of the recreational use statute.