

**Mautz, Kelly**

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**From:** DAVIE PHILLIPS [mailto:MADDAVIE@CHARTER.NET]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 04, 2006 4:14 PM  
**To:** Sen.Breske  
**Cc:** Schmidt, Dan; Patronskey, Mark  
**Subject:** Trails Committee

Dear Senator Breske,

I will be unable to attend the special committee on State Trails Policy that will meet in Merrill on Friday, November 10 but I would like to provide written testimony to your committee.

I have been a resident of Wisconsin for thirty five years and was initially drawn to this state by the high quality of life and the opportunity to enjoy pristine natural beauty. I have spent many thousands of hours fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, skiing and birding. I have been a landowner and have opened my land to all of the above activities with one caveat: I insisted that visitors treat the land with respect and not use motorized transportation. I have valued the peace and solitude that I have found in Wisconsin's natural environment. Unfortunately these values are currently under assault. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to find peaceful places to recreate.

I believe that everyone should have the right of access to our wild lands. As the population grows we need more land for recreation and should find ways to provide access to public land and encourage private land owners to open their lands for passive uses. However, the right of access gives no one the right to pollute or degrade the environment. And, unfortunately, there is the crux of the problem: heavy machinery and internal combustion engines pollute the air and water and make the environment generally unwelcome to the majority of people who are devotees of quiet recreation. It is not possible to have a high quality trail that includes motorized sports and hiking. Such "multi-use" trails quickly become single use--motorized only.

At a time when our oil-based economy is becoming more and more dependent on hostile countries, it seems to be a great irony that we are encouraging activities that increase our dependence on foreign oil. It is a great irony that we willingly send our soldiers into harm's way to protect and increase an oil supply that we use, in part, strictly for recreation. Lastly, it seems to be a great irony that at a time when greater numbers of Americans are suffering from diseases related to obesity, diabetes and poor air quality, we are encouraging a lifestyle that promotes those very diseases.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts. Please enter my comments into the record. I would be happy to provide direct testimony in the future if given the opportunity.

David W. Phillips

11/06/2006