



New York State Conservation Council Inc.
8 East Main Street, Ilion, New York 13357-1899

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Bill #	A 886	Gunther	No same as
	A 3821	Barclay	No same as
	A 4574	Magee	No same as

Title: Amends the vehicle and traffic law to establish a non-trail registration for snowmobiles used solely for accessing hunting, fishing and trapping areas.

These bills would stipulate that owners of snowmobiles used solely to access hunting, fishing and trapping areas would not be required to pay the surcharge portion of the annual registration fee allocated to the New York Snowmobile Trail System for trail maintenance.

Justification:

The purpose of this bill is to exempt snowmobile owners from being required to pay for the maintenance of snowmobile trails they never use. These trails are established and maintained for the use of recreational riders. Sportsmen who use snowmobiles for transportation and do not operate on the trail system should not be required to pay for these facilities.

Sportsmen who drive on other public or open private lands do not object to paying the basic vehicle registration fee which is paid into the General Fund. This represents the same governmental interest as other motor vehicle registrations. Owners are not required to register snowmobiles that are used exclusively on their own property and appropriately, they pay no fee.

Imposing the trail maintenance surcharge on non-users is akin to charging automobile owners a fee for driving past a Thruway entrance.

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