

*Rep. Martin Causer*

*Remarks to House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee*

*Public Hearing on HB 2407*

*June 18, 2014*

*Chairman Payne*

- Chairman Stern, Chairman Kirkland and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2407.
- This bill is all about accountability.
- House Bill 2407 proposes to create two separate accounts for ATV management and snowmobile management within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- Currently, revenue collected from registrations, titles, fees and fines related to both snowmobiles and ATVs are deposited into a single account. Aside from administrative costs, a significant portion of this money is invested in trail maintenance and development.
- Because the revenues are deposited into a single fund, it is unclear how much of the revenue is being expended for ATV purposes and how much for snowmobile purposes.
- I have proposed the creation of separate accounts to ensure fairness, accountability and transparency when it comes to the collection and distribution of these funds.
- As the representative of one of the most rural districts in the Commonwealth, I often hear from ATV enthusiasts about the lack of riding opportunities in our region.
- Cameron County, which I represent, offers a perfect example of the problem. Here is a county that is primarily owned by the state. Over 60 percent of it is state forest land. And yet, there are no ATV riding opportunities on these public lands. None.
- People in Cameron County are paying their ATV registration fees to the state each year and get nothing in return.
- With the vast amount of state land available in our area, DCNR should be able to provide ample riding opportunities for both forms of recreation.
- I appreciate the opportunity to have this bill brought up for discussion by the committee. Thank you.