

TESTIMONY OF
GALE D. CANDARAS
BEFORE THE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

JUNE 26, 2007

H. 3607, “An Act Relative to Recreational Vehicles”

June 26, 2007

The Hon. Steven A. Baddour, Chairman
Senate Committee on Transportation
The State House, Rm. 513
Boston, MA 02133

The Hon. Joseph F. Wagner, Chairman
House Committee on Transportation
The State House, Rm. 134
Boston, MA 02133

Re: H. 3607, "An Act Relative to Recreational Vehicles"

Dear Chairman Baddour and Chairman Wagner:

I write in support of H. 3607, "An Act Relative to Recreational Vehicles." This legislation would establish an educational safety program for the operation of recreational vehicles in the Commonwealth, and would mandate participation in the program for those who operate said vehicles.

The unique climate we enjoy in Massachusetts provides residents and visitors alike with ample opportunity for outdoor recreation during all seasons. As a result, novelty vehicles such as jet-skis, snowmobiles and ATV's enjoy a vast popularity in our waterways, mountains and forests. Unfortunately, the fun and entertainment provided by these vehicles often comes at a cost to public and personal safety, in cases where they are operated incorrectly or during unsafe conditions. Injuries incurred through the improper use of recreational vehicles are common, and too often, these injuries are fatal.

In establishing a program that would determine necessary safety skills, and require the certification of those who operate recreational vehicles, we will make great strides toward reducing the number of injuries and deaths that occur each year. In the interest of public safety, I urge the Committee to report H. 3607 favorably.

Very truly yours,

Gale D. Candaras
State Senator