

From: David P. Ransom, 221 Shipman Road, Waterville, Vermont
05492-9637. 802-644-8144

To: LVRTC-Management Plan
Vermont Association of Snow Travelers
26 VAST Lane, Barre, Vermont 05641

REC'D NOV 30 2006

Dear VAST folk:

I believe we are making a mistake to further encourage the snowmobile and all terrain vehicle industries to woo us and dictate to us how to further pollute the planet with emissions, noise, speed, and acid smell.

My hope is that you will take this opportunity to object to an arrogant industry who, when it comes down to design, construction and operation of their machinery, care not one whit about pollution, children, irresponsibly-behaving adults, neighbours, the natural world - except in their public relations to decision-makers.

I hope that those of you who truly respect this world will take this opportunity to not just gloat over "the profit motive," but will object to a development travesty that is infecting our world.

Do we have the moral integrity to discern between an advancement in technology that can benefit the world and the use of that same technology to further harm the world? So far in your *deliberations I see only a thirst for dollar signs.* Saying "No- not here- not with that" often means loss of possible financial gain in the near future. "No" can also mean that one is developing the integrity required to anticipate that there will be a future.

Our hope is that the present discourse is serving as a "wake-up" call to some of you, as it has for me.

Our love for your journey, which is also ours,



David P. Ransom

FTI This is my earlier letter in this process.

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RE: Lamoille Valley (and beyond) Rail Trail

To: Gov. James Douglas, 109 State Street, Montpelier 05609; David
Dill, Deputy Secy. AOT, 1 National Life Dr., Montpelier 05633; Sen.
Richard Mazza, Chair Sen. Trans. Comm., 777 W. Lakeshore Dr.,
Colchester 05446; Sen. Susan Bartlett, Chair Sen. Appropriations
Comm. & Sen. Lamoille, P.O. Box 123, Hyde Park 05655; Rep. Richard
Westman, Chair House Trans. Comm., 2439 Iron Gate Road,
Cambridge 05444; Rep. Martha Heath, Chair House Appropriations
Comm., 342 Rollin Irish Rd., Westford 05494.

Dear Gov. Douglas, Secy Dill, Ch. Mazza, Ch. Bartlett, Ch. Westman, Ch.
Heath,

Thank you, Secy. Terrill and Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail
Trail for your replies to my previous letter which is longer and more
pointed. In this note I will meet your requirements for greater
brevity by using more philosophical language.

We are at an important crossroads in human history which will
determine the future of not only our "experiment in democracy"
(USA) but also the "experiment in humanity" (as noted in the Jewish
and Christian Holy Bible, Koran, and other sacred literature, myth,
and legend).

We have long assumed that "nature will take care of it."
Consequently we have proceeded in a relatively unreflective
"advancement" of every invention of human imagination. Hence, "the
Industrial Revolution," incorporated the elevation of "money" and
"the profit motive" to become "God," continuing feudal society.

Some results of this human ignorance and arrogance are being
experienced in our discussions, as bred in our personalities as a
result of our being children of industry. For example, energy
developers have buried ideas for non-polluting means in favor of "oil
for profit." Even today "owners(profiteers) of oil" scramble to become
"owners(profiteers) of new energy forms."

Another result is that we can drive a gasoline engine oblivious
to the consequences we leave behind. Yes, we have become a "big fart
in a stiff wind." The wind is history as interpreted by jingoism and
neither reality nor reflection. The long history of wars, and especially
in the "Middle East" should serve as current proof. In Christian
parlance I often recognize myself in Jesus' words, "...forgive them for

Please turn the page.

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they know not what they do." Such forgiveness can begin the long journey back to compassionate stewardship of our planet. As part of that process we begin to learn that whatever we exhaust remains in *vital relationship*. *If we merely grab the results of our endeavour for ourselves, our exhaust will return to harm us.*

Hence, in this already out of balance discussion of what to do with known polluters such as, in this case, motorcycle type engines, I beg you on all our behalfs to regain some perspective of our relationship with nature, which includes our biological future.

I realize that we live in an extended period of some of the least *supportive business and political leadership capacities for* encouraging understanding of our human and planetary conditions that we have ever seen in power. So, I appeal to you to step aside from what we have become and are bidden to be by those in power, and realize the ineptitude of their leadership, and return to what might appear to some as revolutionary sensitivities, that is care, or in male chauvinist parlance "give a damn." We must look to you to *break the barriers of selfish independence and greedy motives and* return us to public and life conscience. Since we still live in a world of largely secret diplomacy and negotiation, we hope you will see the significance of your actions in this relatively "insignificant," as seen by some, decision-making process, as compared with the world crises about us. We hope you will see your decisions in this process as highly significant because through it you again have an opportunity *to view the course of human nature's folly and promise.*

All about us and within our bodies and relationships, nature awaits the realized compassion of your deliberations. In Vermont we have a unique opportunity to sense what we have become as one stands in the State's round building in Waterbury to view the mural of Columbus' arrival in America. Such aids can trigger our recognition and decision to become more sensitive and realistic, not as defined by current parlance and power.

Our love for your journey,

David P. Ransom, 221 Shipman Road,
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