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August 9, 2010

Dear Stakeholder:

We are writing to all the participants in the Off Highway Vehicle Enforcement Working Group today to celebrate the exciting news that on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, Governor Patrick signed into law sweeping changes to the Commonwealth's Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) laws. Many of the provisions in the new law mirror the recommendations of the 2008 Off Highway Vehicle Working Group in which you participated. As you know, that group, which was composed of motorized recreation enthusiasts, law enforcement officials, environmental and park advocates, and conservation land managers, worked intensely for months to identify key policy and statutory changes to help improve OHV enforcement in the Commonwealth. Because of this work and advocacy by many of you and your organizations, the new law includes a number of the key provisions that the working group identified including:

- Strengthening fines and penalties for OHV offenses.
- Requiring safety and responsibility training for all OHV operators eighteen (18) years of age and younger.
- Requiring registration for all OHVs and dedicating registration and penalty revenues to increasing enforcement capabilities and the development, maintenance and restoration of OHV trails.
- Reducing allowable OHV noise levels to 96dbA at 20 inches.
- Strengthening communication among enthusiasts, land managers, enforcement agencies and other stakeholders by establishing a Massachusetts OHV Advisory Committee.

Please see the attached with the full text of the new law and refer to [http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3pressrelease&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Agov3&b=pressrelease&f=100731\\_ATV\\_Bill\\_Signing&csid=Agov3](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3pressrelease&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Agov3&b=pressrelease&f=100731_ATV_Bill_Signing&csid=Agov3) for the Governor's announcement.

Citizen involvement is critical to effective governance and Governor Patrick has challenged all of us in his administration to engage stakeholder communities in our work. We at EEA are proud of our all of efforts in this regard, and the OHV Enforcement Working Group is among the most successful collaborations of stakeholders in our experience. Despite your diverse associations and perspectives, you worked together with common purpose and genuine respect throughout the process. Your 2008 report identified over 40 recommendations and showed rare consensus on what could have been truly polarizing issues. And, in just over two years, many of your most important recommendations have now become law.

Thank you for your commitment to this process and your dedication of your time and knowledge to improving OHV management in the Commonwealth. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Ian A. Bowles  
Secretary



Rick Sullivan  
DCR Commissioner