

April 5, 2017

House Committee on Transportation
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh-in on H.287, an act relating to ways used for vehicular travel. I am writing in support of this bill, and hope that the Committee on Transportation will advance it during this year's session.

As a trauma surgeon with 35 years of experience and the former trauma medical director at the University of Vermont Medical Center, I can assure you that injuries caused by striking wires, chains, and ropes stung across access roads and trails can be catastrophic. These injuries are not rare, particularly during snowmobile and ATV season. I can recall that, every year, we would see three or four victims of this mechanism of injury at our Level I Trauma Center in Burlington. The most common results are airway injuries, broken necks, and massive facial injuries which can result not only in immediate pain and suffering but often in a lifetime of disability.

The trauma team at UVM Medical Center has an outstanding record of saving lives after serious injuries. However, we realize that any injury that is **prevented** is as much a success as a good outcome after all of our hard work in the hospital. Requiring all wires, chains, and ropes that cross access routes to have a visible warning marker will certainly reduce the number of tragedies that we see in the trauma center every year. Passage of H.287 will go a long way towards achieving our goal of "Zero Preventable Trauma Deaths" over the next decade.

Thank you for discussing this important issue, and please let me know if there is anything I or my colleagues can do to assist you during your deliberation.

Best,

John

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