

State of Vermont

**Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation/ ANR
The Natural Resources Board/Act 250**

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Rep. Amy Sheldon, Chair, Act 47 Commission

FROM: Michael C. Snyder, Commissioner, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation,
Diane Snelling, Chair, Vermont Natural Resources Board

DATE: March 1, 2019

RE: Recommendation related to recreational trails and Act 250

Please allow this brief memorandum to update you, and the House Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Committee with respect to the progress made pursuant to Act 194, since our last submission to the Act 47 Commission, dated December 6, 2018.

Recreational trail organizations, now organized as the Vermont Trails Alliance, in collaboration with the Forest Partnership, a group of forest conservation organizations, have been working to find common ground in response to the concerns raised in Act 194. We continue to support this approach and we continue to work with these stakeholders to explore alternative regulatory mechanisms for Vermont's trails and/or to clarify the existing regulatory structure.

We regret that due to various schedules, we are currently unable to provide the Committee with the a more substantive report of their work at this time. It is anticipated that the stakeholder group's will be able to share their work with Forests, Parks and Recreation, and the Natural Resources Board during the week of March 11. Once we have reviewed the stakeholders' report, we will be in a better position to provide the Committee a more substantive progress report.

We believe the work that the stakeholders are currently undertaking will result in improved communications, appropriate regulation and best management practices that will provide certainty for trail builders, while also protecting Vermont's environment.

We look forward to discussing the proposals and continuing to work on this issue with you.