



MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

4543 Division Ave. S, Wyoming, MI 49548

(616) 361-2285

FAX (616) 363-0661

Dear Senators,

March 6, 2019

The Michigan Snowmobile Association (MSA) is the voice of the Michigan Snowmobiler.

We feel that our members have molded the Michigan Snowmobile Trail System into the best snowmobiling in the Mid-West. Many national snowmobile magazines have at one time or another focused-on Michigan areas as the best trail riding in the country.

Snowmobiling in Michigan generates over 600 million dollars a year in positive economic benefits to the state. What other nonprofit industry pays 100% of the cost of the program and allows the state to benefit from the impact of snowmobiling?

While MSA has been focused on making sure that funding of the trail plan continues to improve and expand, the average snowmobiler only sees the improvement, not the effort that it takes to make the improvement.

MSA would ask that you be a part of our legislative initiatives to improve the current Snowmobile Program by helping us do the following!

1. Establish into law the ***Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup***, a current subcommittee of the Michigan Trails Advisory Committee.
2. Firm up the ***Definition*** of a snowmobile; with all of the aftermarket add-ons to ATV's, Motorcycles, 4X4 trucks. We need to restrict the width and give law enforcement the tools to keep our trails safe.
3. Restrict wheeled vehicles from the ***Marked Groomed Snowmobile Trails*** between December 1 and March 31st of each season. Again, for our safety and the safety of others and to prevent the damage to the groomed surface during this time period.
4. **Increase the fee** for a snowmobile trail permit to \$60, to allow us to properly fund the program. Cost of a groomer is now over \$250,000 each, the current 68 snowmobile Grant Sponsors own 178 of them, and they all are getting older and costing more maintenance dollars to keep them running.

While we were doing planning for the system, our neighbor states were figuring out how to reach their snowmobilers in order to educate them on snowmobile safety, clubs, trail news, trail etiquette, closures and other important information.

Wisconsin, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont have all passed legislation to offer trail permits to the members of their state association at a discounted price.

All of the states mentioned have passed the legislation, and many more are working on the same premise. Why? Apathy, trails are great, no closure issues, snowmobilers can get in and out of their favorite restaurants, hotels, motels, etc. Over half think the DNR does all the trail maintenance, when in reality clubs establish and maintain the trails. The DNR manages the plan put together by the organized snowmobile community.

Let's see if we can put together a plan to make the Michigan Trail system even better than it is, please help us with getting our initiatives completed!

Just Some More Food for Thought:

How does the **Michigan Snowmobile & Off-Road Vehicle Association (MISORVA)** sound?

That is the name that has been chosen for the organization that will represent snowmobilers and ORV enthusiasts in Michigan.

At the December meeting of the Michigan Snowmobile Association, Board of Directors in Munising, MI there was a long discussion about ATV & UTV use on the trails in the off season. The trails that they use are usually the same trails that we use on state land. (ORV's not allowed on the private property that snowmobilers gain permission to use in the winter.) The discussion centered around working together for both our mutual benefit. The discussion moved forward to the fact that is not a statewide organization to represent the ATV/UTV community. A motion was made, seconded and passed to have the MSA president established an exploratory committee to research how the MSA's bylaws could be changed to allow MSA to transition smoothly into an association that would **represent both snowmobile and ORV riders** – an association that would represent motorized recreation in Michigan. The new **MISORVA** will be one umbrella organization working for both motorized groups. New bylaws will reflect those same thoughts. Snowmobile representation and ORV representation will consist of equal representation for each of three established regions in the state.

The current MSA Board of Directors will vote on this at the March 16 meeting.