



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS RECREATIONAL TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD

24 Glenn Street, Douglas, MA 01516

November 12, 2008

Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick,

The Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board (MARTAB) urges you to utilize all of the federal Recreational Trail Program (RTP) funding that the state receives each year. Currently, Massachusetts ranks 50th in the nation using only 45% of the RTP funding that we have received over the past 15 years. The national average is 86%. Disappointingly, from 1993 – 2007 we have returned \$2,001,592, while the nation as a whole has returned \$6,914,606. This means that Massachusetts returns 29.8% of all of the monies given back to the Federal government by the 50 states.

As you know, the Executive Office of Transportation holds RTP funds before they are released to the Department of Conservation and Recreation to fund trail enhancement projects around the State. We applaud your recent action that resulted in EOT releasing the RTP funds more quickly to DCR improving the efficiency of the grant program and the timeliness of the awards. Unfortunately, EOT is still returning the majority of the RTP funds it receives back to the federal government each year. Given the State's current financial situation, the State of Massachusetts can no longer afford to give back millions of dollars to the federal government.

Massachusetts has the eighth largest State Park system in the United States. You have recently announced that funding for much needed projects in our State Park system will be cut due to the current shortfall in State revenues. To partially mitigate this, Massachusetts should be taking advantage of all available Federal funding. In these tough economic times we should be leading the nation in using these funds; not leading the nation in giving them back to the Federal government!

In conclusion, MARTAB respectfully requests that you instruct the EOT to release to DCR 100% of the annual RTP funds it receives for use in recreational trail enhancement projects across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Becky Kalagher".

Becky Kalagher
Chair, Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board, and
Bay State Trail Riders (Equestrians)

Dean Zuppio
SAM - Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts

Dick O'Brien
The Trustees of Reservations (Land Trusts, hikers, x-country skiers, snowshoers)

Benton Phelps
New England Trail Riders Association (ATV Riders)

Paul Remington
King Philip Trail Riders (Off Road Motorcycles)

Bill Boles
NEMBA - New England Mountain Bike Association

Craig Della Penna
Northeast Greenway Solutions, Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Mat Moore
AMC - Appalachian Mountain Club