



For Immediate Release
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10 YEARS IN THE MAKING, NEW JERSEY PASSES OFF-ROAD VEHICLE LEGISLATION

Southampton, New Jersey – A823 and S2055, which would require mandatory registration and tagging of off-road vehicles (ORVs), increase penalties for illegal riding, and designate state land for one riding facility, passed the Assembly and Senate yesterday.

“This legislation is a major advance by New Jersey in recognizing the problem with illegal ORV riding and moving towards a solution,” said **Jaclyn Rhoads, Director for Conservation Policy, Pinelands Preservation Alliance**.

Unfortunately, a last minute compromise by the State Legislature requires that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) designate one riding facility on state-owned land before all other provisions in the bills are implemented.

The bill sponsors have spent many years championing the efforts to control illegal off-road vehicle riding: Assemblymen Reed Gusciora, Paul Moriarty, John Wisniewski, Ruben Ramos, Jr., Caridad Rodriguez, John McKeon and Linda Greenstein, and Senators Robert Gordon, Brian Stack and Shirley Turner.

“Yesterday marked an important step forward in protecting private and public land from illegal riding. Although one riding facility needs to be designated before the registration and tagging provisions of the bill begin, I am confident that DEP will ensure this happens in the near future to protect conservation lands from further destruction, and help responsible riders find legal places to ride,” said **Primary Sponsor, Assemblyman Reed Gusciora - District 15**.

“I thank my colleagues for passing A823/S2055, which, when implemented, will help to reign in the illegal riding damage to private properties, farmland, public spaces and conservation land. The penalties provision in the bill will assist DEP in strengthening enforcement and paying for natural resources damages caused by illegal off-road vehicle riding. These costs have burdened the citizens of New Jersey for many years. I look forward to the Governor’s signing of the bills,” stated **Primary Senate Sponsor, Senator Robert Gordon – District 38**.



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“This legislation provides for a safer New Jersey through regulation of off-road vehicles. It should also lead to less environmental damage to our pristine open spaces—both public and private, because of those regulations,” said **Buena Vista Mayor Chuck Chiarello, Pinelands Municipal Council Chair.**

Governor Corzine has until Tuesday, January 19th to sign bills passed by the legislature before the new administration begins.

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