



NEWS

from
Assemblywoman
Teresa Sayward



113th Assembly District

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SAYWARD STANDS UP FOR SNOWMOBILERS' RIGHTS *Investigates reappropriation of funds intended for Snowmobile Fund*

Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward (R,I,C – Willsboro) is working with colleagues to investigate the state Budget's reappropriation of around \$1 million for the Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Fund.

"This is a clear example of why we need serious budget reform," said Sayward. "The budget was delivered to us at the last possible moment and this reappropriation was slipped secretly into the budget at the last minute."

In 2005, legislation was passed increasing snowmobile registration fees – The Snowmobile Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2005. However, it was not stated anywhere in the sponsor's memo that if not used within a certain time period, the funds would be appropriated elsewhere. It was promised that the increased fees would finance the trail improvement fund, which supports the state's 10,000 miles of public snowmobile trails, snowmobile safety education and enforcement of the state's snowmobile laws. However, according to Sayward that promise has not been kept.

This fund has been swept into the general fund of the budget, to be spent at the state's discretion, a clear violation of the rights of snowmobilers who agreed to pay this increased registration fee with the expectation that the funds be used for their benefit.

"Snowmobilers are forced to pay this fee under the assumption that it will go toward improving their education and facilities," Sayward stated. "Instead the money will be taken from their pockets and spent at the whim of the state. That is unacceptable. I am joining together with my colleagues and New York's snowmobilers in the fight to return this money to its proper place."

Sayward will be circulating two petitions, one for lawmakers in Albany and the other for snowmobilers and concerned members of the public to sign. A copy of the latter petition is attached here for public use. All petitions should be returned to Assemblywoman Sayward's district office at 140 Glen St. Glens Falls, NY 12801.