

# PRESS RELEASE

## MAINE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

---

P.O. Box 80  
Augusta, Maine 04332

### **MSA Reaffirms Opposition to National Park, Condemns Coercive Tactics by Quimby Operatives**

August 17, 2011

#### **For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Bob Meyers, Executive Director**

**(207) 622-6983**

**e-mail: [snowjob@mesnow.com](mailto:snowjob@mesnow.com)**

**AUGUSTA** – The directors of the Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA) voted unanimously at their August meeting to reaffirm their opposition to the creation of a national park in Maine's north woods.

The directors cited the loss of local and state control to the federal government, the loss of traditional recreational activities and the intrusions on abutting private landowners within the confines of a national park. The MSA directors passed a similar resolution in 2001 and chose to renew their opposition in the face of recent proposals by Roxanne Quimby to create a federal park on land she owns between the East Branch of the Penobscot River and Baxter State Park.

Directors also expressed their outrage at recent efforts by Quimby land managers to coerce local snowmobile clubs to write letters of support for a park feasibility study with threats of a loss of access on Quimby lands. At meetings held in Brownville and Medway earlier in the month, Quimby land managers told local snowmobile clubs that in exchange for letters of support for a national park feasibility study, they would be allowed use of trails on her land for another year. This is in spite of written assurances of continued access to important north-south routes in the past.

"We're disappointed that Ms. Quimby and her land managers feel the need to threaten the volunteers of these snowmobile clubs with a loss of access in order to advance their agenda," said MSA Executive Director Bob Meyers. "Our members have the highest respect for the rights of private landowners, but to hold a gun to the heads of these volunteers is disgraceful. We believe it speaks volumes to the level of support that is really out there for Quimby's park proposal."

"It's ironic", said Meyers "that while Ms. Quimby speaks of her desire to spark economic activity in the region at public meetings; behind the scenes she and her representatives are threatening the livelihoods of dozens of small family-owned businesses in towns like Medway, Mount Chase, Patten and Brownville."

*The Maine Snowmobile Association represents 28,000 snowmobilers and 2,100 businesses in 287 snowmobile clubs statewide. These clubs, with the cooperation of thousands of private landowners, maintain 14,000 miles of snowmobile trails statewide. Recent estimates of the economic activity from snowmobiling in Maine exceed \$300 million per year.*

