

SHIMANO

Shimano Canada Ltd.

427 Pido Road
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 6X7 Canada
Phone: (705) 745-3232
Fax: (705) 745-1949

June 5, 2006

Mr. Bob Delaney, M.P.P.
Chair, Standing Committee on the
Legislative Committee
Room 340 Main Legislative Building
Toronto, ON M7A 1A4

Dear Mr. Delaney:

Subject: Bill 11 - Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act

Shimano is a major manufacturer of bicycle components and fishing rods and reels and maintaining environmentally sustainable low impact recreational uses on public lands and waters is of significant importance to our company and our customers.

We write to express a serious concern over proposed amendments and changes to the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (s. 7. (2)) which would prohibit the use of bicycles, wheelchairs, canoe portage carts, etc. in Ontario parks and conservation reserves. Attached please find a detailed legal opinion on this matter for your review which we have obtained from Mr. Peter Hayden at Lang Michener.

It is our understanding these changes to status quo Ontario Parks policy and legislation were recommended by various "environmental" organizations. We are very familiar with the parallel efforts of these anti-use groups and their associates in the U.S. where they have promoted elitist legislation in recent years which would ban well established ecologically sustainable recreational uses on millions of acres of public lands. In the absence of any research data to support the need for these drastic changes to public access to public lands, we suggest these positions are merely a subjective attempt to impose legislative prejudice without scientific merit, on the people of Ontario.

Recent comprehensive scientific research has shown that mountain bikes on designated trails have no more significant ecological impact than hikers. It could be fairly concluded that wheelchairs and canoe portage carts have virtually no appreciable ecological impact – but they remain important to people who require these mechanized means to be able to access and enjoy parks and protected areas.

We are very concerned at the precedent that would be set by the Ontario Legislature passing proposed amendments in Bill 11 which would unjustly target disabled people in wheelchairs who should have equal access to enjoy parks, conservation reserves and all public wild lands and waters. It is our belief that our Members of Provincial Parliament from all parties would see this as a regressive and completely unacceptable recommendation.

We recommend to the Committee that our parks and conservation reserves should continue to remain accessible to all members of the public to enjoy, whether they be disabled, young or old, or able to ride a mountain bike for hours on the designated managed bike trails that exist in many of Ontario's wilderness parks. Further, we ask the Committee to retain the current wording in Section 7 (2).

In addition, we fully endorse the positions and wording for amendments put forward to you by Dr. Terry Quinney of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T Brooke".

Tom Brooke
Vice President, Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Morlock".

Phil Morlock
Director, Environmental Affairs

cc: David Ramsay, M.P.P.
David Oraziotti, M.P.P.
Mario Racco, M.P.P.
Mario Sergio, M.P.P.
Jean-Marc Lalonde, M.P.P.
Lou Rinaldi, M.P.P.
Norm Miller, M.P.P.
Gilles Bisson, M.P.P.