



Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation

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February 4, 2005

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail

Chuck Spoden, Regional Director and Les Ollila, Regional Trails and Waterways Supervisor
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1201 East Highway 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Mr. Spoden and Mr. Ollila:

Thank you Mr. Spoden for talking with me on the phone last Tuesday regarding a possible Duluth-area meeting to discuss the proposed Duluth-area crosstown state snowmobile trail. Thank you also for saying you would prompt Mr. Ollila to respond to MRR's attached December 7, 2004 request for data which we agreed should be provided in advance of scheduling such a meeting.

While we are pleased to make headway regarding a potential meeting, we are disappointed that we have not received requested data nor a phone call updating us on your progress to provide that data. This is especially disappointing in light of existing citizen concerns regarding lack of access to data on the proposed snowmobile trail. Please recall that our request for data was to provide a common ground of information to be discussed at our proposed meeting.

The Minnesota Data Practices Act, Chapter 13.03 requires that "the responsible authority in every state agency, political subdivision...insure that requests for government data are received and complied with in an appropriate and prompt manner." In the 670 opinions rendered by the Minnesota Department of Administration, regarding compliance with the Minnesota Data Practices Act, governmental agencies are expected to reply in an appropriate manner within 15 – 20 days. After waiting 41 days for your office to respond to our December 7, 2004 request for data we believe that you are out of compliance with the Minnesota Data Practices Act.

As we now have waited 41 days for data requested of your office, we urge you to respond in full to our request by 5:00 p.m., February 11. I look forward to discussing a future meeting once that data has been received.

Please call on me at 218-740-3175 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Brown,
Executive Director

c. Katherine Engler, Department of Administration, Data Practices Office