

NH Governor's RACE 2004

GUB CANDIDATES RESPOND TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS OF N.H. CITIZENS

Grassroots Groups Ask Candidates about State Park Land, Environmental Health, and Our Way of Life

October 26, 2004 -- A coalition of grassroots environmental groups recently presented questions to the two gubernatorial candidates, Republican Governor Craig Benson and his Democratic challenger, John Lynch, to determine how the candidates would respond to significant local environmental concerns as governor.

ATV's

1. In response to powerful lobbying efforts by ATV owners, the New Hampshire legislature has enacted laws that require DRED to allow ATV use on trails on public lands. DRED has also proposed opening all the trails in Pisgah to year-round use. This ATV use would make the trails unusable for skiers, hikers and any foot travelers, as well as making the trails difficult to use for snowmobilers. Do you support or oppose the use of public lands for this purpose? If you oppose this kind of use, what would you do to stop this kind of policy?

Benson: Did Not Respond to Questionnaire

Lynch: I am not familiar with the situation at Pisgah, but as Governor I will listen to all interested parties to make sure we have plenty of public input and that we find a solution that works. We must find ways to allow multiple uses of public land, that protect the environment and protect everyone's ability to enjoy them.

2. There are proposals to put ATV trails on Rail-Trail corridors, without requiring environmental reviews. These proposals could overrule town ordinances, historic concerns, noise pollution, concern of for rare plants, endangered species and the fact that some Rail-Trails are less than 50 feet from dwellings in many villages and towns. As governor, would you support allowing these trails to be developed? If not, what would you do to stop any of these trails from being opened to year-round violations of community and individual rights?

Benson: Did Not Respond to Questionnaire

Lynch: As Governor, I will make sure local communities have a seat at the table when it comes to decisions about how local public lands are used.

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