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**Dear Neighbor,**

November 9, 2004

**Your home is on or near a proposed permanent crosstown state snowmobile trail.** Because of the noise, fumes, unruly behavior and property damage caused by snowmobilers in our community, **many property owners have withdrawn the temporary permission** they had granted for a temporary trail to cross their land. **Snowmobilers on the current trail have been observed chasing animals on and off the trail, aiming their machines at residents, making rude gestures at property owners, traveling at extreme speeds and leaving behind oil and liquor containers in the night.** Despite these ongoing problems, now the DNR and Hermantown Nightriders Snowmobile Club want to make this snowmobile trail permanent by purchasing permanent easements from property owners. **For the above reasons we write to encourage you to join us in opposing a permanent state snowmobile trail in our community.**

For some time the DNR has been wanting to connect the Munger State Trail in West Duluth with the North Shore State Trailhead in the Upper Woodland area of Duluth. To do so **would put our community in the middle of one of the nation's longest snowmobile trails and would connect our neighborhoods with 18,000 miles of snowmobile trail statewide.** One Hermantown property owner counted over 50 machines per hour adjacent to his property last winter.

In 1998 the people of Duluth said "No!" to a crosstown state snowmobile trail through their community which **proponents predicted would bring an additional 20,000 snowmobiles each winter** to Duluth. Now the DNR, Hermantown Nightriders Snowmobile Club and Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) are proposing three alternative routes through Duluth, Midway Township, Proctor, Hermantown, and Rice Lake Township. While we are not opposed to the idea of snowmobiling we do want not a high-volume of these machines and all their problems in our backyards and neighborhoods.

In 2000 and again in the past several weeks, many Hermantown property owners who had given permission for a temporary trail on their land have withdrawn their permission because of the noise, unruly behavior of snowmobilers and property damage. **If you have a given temporary permission for the trail to cross your land and want to withdraw that permission we encourage you to send a certified letter to Les Ollila, Regional Supervisor, Trails and Waterways Division, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.** Simply state that you withdraw permission for the snowmobile trail to cross your property.

Whether you currently have the temporary trail on your property or not, in the coming weeks or months members of the **Hermantown Nightriders Snowmobile Club and the DNR may be approaching you to sell a permanent easement across your land** for a proposed permanent crosstown state snowmobile trail. **We encourage you not to sell a permanent easement across your property for the above and additional reasons.**

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While the DNR may offer you \$500 - \$5000 for such a permanent easement, the **noise, fumes and bad behavior will be shared with all your neighbors**. Even those at a distance from the proposed route should expect a large increase in snowmobile traffic through your neighborhood as riders access the proposed state snowmobile trail and the state's 18,000 miles of trail. **The problems that have plagued not only easement providing landowners but their neighbors as well will only increase if a permanent state snowmobile trail is developed in our neighborhood**. The proposed permanent state trail will be one of the nation's longest snowmobile trails. A much higher volume of traffic, with snowmobilers from across Minnesota and a higher volume of problems should be expected from a permanent state snowmobile trail in our community.

Not only will a permanent easement across your property expose your household to the noise and bad behavior of snowmobilers; a permanent easement on your land may preclude your right to close your property to snowmobilers and these problems in the future. **A permanent snowmobile trail easement will be a permanent fixture on your property and will likely inhibit your ability to sell your land in the future.**

As neighbors wanting to protect the peace and quiet in our community, **we urge you to do three things:**

- **Withdraw any permission** you have given for a temporary snowmobile trail
- **Refuse to sell a permanent easement** across your land for a permanent snowmobile trail
- **Call Jeff Brown at Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation at 740-3175** to join us and other like-minded neighbors working to protect the peace and quiet in our community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent and serious matter.

Sincerely,

*Authors names withheld for publication.*

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Hermantown

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