

**Honourable Shannon Phillips,**  
**Minister of Environment and Parks**  
208 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB

**Subject: Castle PLUZ Special Management Area**

January 26, 2016

Dear Honorable Minister,

I believe that co-existence, not exclusion creates a diverse & economically prosperous Alberta. The Castle PLUZ has always been open to "We are campers, we are hikers, we are mountain bikers and we are much more." as stated by Mrs. Notley in the public announcement.

However, the exclusion of OHV, (especially if based only on environmental lobby group pressure) – questions this governments ability to make sound economic decisions that benefit this province.

I expect my government to make balanced decisions, removing emotion & ideology from fact, and create outcomes that provide balance for both economic prosperity & environmental sustainability for this province.

You stated "scientific research convinced the government that the Castle wasn't the place for motorized recreation." So aside from environmental scientific research provided by lobby groups, what Economic Impact studies were utilized or reviewed to conclude an overall benefit from excluding OHV access? Why did it have to be complete exclusion, when trails & bridges that exist or could be expanded upon to provide access to enjoy both motorized and non motorized activity providing economic growth?

Mrs. Notley also stated that "And the parks themselves will act as a source of economic diversification, bringing in more tourists, and creating more jobs,". I have not seen an economic impact study anywhere that will prove this statement true. Excluding OHV from Castle will actually have an adverse economic impact, which could have been avoided by promoting co-existence vs exclusion.

Since it appears that this decision was made to appease environmental lobbyists, I have reached out to various creditable organizations to provide some insight on the Economic Impact from OHV activities.

As noted in the charts following, OHV ATV's & Side by Sides (not including off-road motorcycles), generated **\$8.8 Billion dollars** to our Canadian economy in 2015, with **Alberta representing 23% (\$2.01B)** of the total.

Using our neighboring US historical information, it's reported that 57% of the population enjoy outdoor activities. Of that 57%, 51.9% enjoy non-motorized activities, and 26.8% enjoy motorized activities. Showing that 21% enjoyed BOTH motorized and non-motorized activities.

Economic Impact Study of these activities show the substantial economic revenue of motorized compared to non-motorized to the economy. As noted, expenditures for motorized activities are 47.5B compared to 14B for non motorized. The report also shows that OHV trip related expenditures (\$104B), are 192% more than non motorized trail based activities (\$54B). Therefore, by excluding OHV, the government would have to increase the amount of existing and already permitted non-motorized activities in Castle by 339%, and those people would have to spend 192% more than statically just to break even from excluding OHV trips & activities in the Castle region.

**Table 4. Expenditures for equipment and accessories for non-motorized recreation, U.S.**

	Trail-based Sports	Bicycling	Camping	Snow-based Sports	Water-based Sports
Apparel	\$ 2,182,194,731	\$ 1,961,431,616	\$ 874,524,468	\$ 1,233,721,325	\$ 439,523,573
Equipment	\$ 1,852,016,874	\$ 3,336,759,867	\$ 5,617,650,799	\$ 1,421,243,713	\$ 854,539,234
Accessories	\$ 1,377,140,546	\$ 1,353,039,098	\$ 1,177,722,605	\$ 1,058,795,219	\$ 594,618,812
Services	\$ 1,179,725,671	\$ 827,306,356	\$ 970,111,200	\$ 1,131,168,962	\$ 501,611,493
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 6,591,077,823</b>	<b>\$ 7,478,536,937</b>	<b>\$ 8,640,009,072</b>	<b>\$ 4,844,929,219</b>	<b>\$ 2,390,293,111</b>

**Table 5. Expenditures for equipment and accessories for motorized recreation, U.S.**

	Motorcycling	Off-Road Riding	Boating	Snowmobiling	RV'ing
New vehicles	\$4,410,925,249	\$6,644,222,105	\$6,032,069,885	\$310,279,465	\$7,103,056,630
Used vehicles	\$2,409,890,416	\$4,374,538,413	\$7,824,287,712	\$418,751,814	\$5,340,846,760
Parts	\$2,194,286,927	\$3,054,086,361	\$2,012,365,803	\$280,711,458	\$521,997,549
Maintenance	\$1,676,477,791	\$7,564,492,052	\$2,171,317,410	\$139,412,615	\$387,616,426
Insurance	\$1,440,017,506	\$2,130,699,386	\$1,574,718,811	\$83,488,314	\$417,148,468
Registration	\$865,555,418	\$6,476,434,884	\$588,411,579	\$75,266,758	\$289,364,923
Apparel	\$829,734,995	\$1,384,642,421	\$386,094,227	\$115,937,055	\$70,360,964
Storage	\$484,992,947	\$1,619,985,415	\$638,695,070	\$177,855,166	\$149,416,205
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$14,311,881,249</b>	<b>\$33,249,101,037</b>	<b>\$21,227,960,497</b>	<b>\$1,601,702,645</b>	<b>\$14,279,807,925</b>

Excluding OHV from Castle will have an adverse economic impact, which could be avoided by promoting co-existence vs exclusion. Prosperity and sustainability, is replaced with divisiveness and polarization by promoting an US vs THEM mentality.

Decisions like this, made without respect to economics, optically suggest that this government only listens and is influenced by lobbyist groups and those with like minded ideologies – at the expense of prosperity and sustainability for all Albertans.

Honorable Minister, I would respectfully request that you work with the input of OHV associations, to create a Castle park that promotes inclusion, prosperity and environmental sustainability for ALL Albertans by including access for OHV to the area.

Respectfully,  
Garett Schmidt