

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3590
OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE OF MICHIGAN

At the end of the bill, add the following:

1 **TITLE IX—SENSE OF CONGRESS**
2 **REGARDING SNOWMOBILES**
3 **ON NATIONAL FOREST SYS-**
4 **TEM LANDS**

5 **SEC. 901. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The clear identification of roads, trails, and
8 areas for motor vehicle use in each National Forest
9 will improve management of National Forest System
10 lands and protect these national treasures, enhance
11 opportunities, and address access for motorized
12 recreation experiences on National Forest System
13 lands and preserve areas of opportunity in each Na-
14 tional Forest for non-motorized travel and experi-
15 ences.

16 (2) The sport of snowmobiling supports thou-
17 sands of jobs across the country and provides a vari-
18 ety of enriching recreational opportunities for both
19 families and individuals.

1 (3) In 2005, the Forest Service promulgated a
2 Travel Management Rule that required travel man-
3 agement plans for off-road vehicles, with the excep-
4 tion of snowmobiles, on all lands managed by the
5 Forest Service.

6 (4) Under the 2005 Travel Management Rule,
7 the Department of Agriculture deemed that the use
8 of snowmobiles on National Forest System lands
9 presented a different set of management issues and
10 environmental impacts on National Forest System
11 lands than the use of other types of motor vehicles.
12 Therefore, the final rule exempted snowmobiles from
13 the mandatory designation scheme provided for
14 under section 212.51 of title 36, Code of Federal
15 Regulations, but retained the National Forest Sys-
16 tem's ability to allow, restrict or prohibit snowmobile
17 travel, as appropriate, on a case-by-case basis.

18 (5) In 2013, the Ninth U.S. District Court of
19 Idaho ruled in the case captioned as *Winter*
20 *Wildlands Alliance v. US Forest Service*, Case No.
21 1:11-cv-00586-REB, ruled that the Forest Service
22 must promulgate travel management rules that in-
23 clude snowmobiles. The Ninth U.S. District Court of
24 Idaho required that the final rule be promulgated by

1 September 14, 2014, barring no additional exten-
2 sion.

3 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that the Forest Service should continue to allow
5 snowmobiles access to National Forest System lands at
6 the same levels as were allowed as of March 28, 2013,
7 subject to closures for public health and safety at the dis-
8 cretion of the respective agencies, until a final travel man-
9 agement rule is promulgated for snowmobiles.

