



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Davis", written over a horizontal line.

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Support SB 487; Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem

Oregon's Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) law does a great job listing what kinds of vehicles must use a slow-moving vehicle emblem. What the Oregon Farm Bureau would like to see is a change in the law that says you are in violation of the SMV law when you use this emblem in a manner not listed in statute.

There are many ways a person can use a slow-moving vehicle emblem improperly. SB 487 simply says that *any* use not listed in statute and appears on a highway is a violation of the slow-moving vehicle law.

The main problems of incorrectly using a slow-moving vehicle emblem are below.

Problems:

- 1) Drivers can become accustomed to seeing this emblem on stationary objects such as a tree or a driveway and forget their intended meaning. not give proper safety considerations when approaching a true slow-moving vehicle on the roadway.
- 2) Because drivers don't associate this sign with a slow-moving vehicle, they might not approach this sign with the caution they should, especially at night time. Drivers may think there is not a slow-moving vehicle in the road when in reality there is a large piece of farm equipment driving slowly.

We need to reinforce this signs original meaning, which is to slow down. Oregon Farm Bureau would like to see any improper use of a slow-moving vehicle emblem to be a violation. ORS 815.110 lists when a vehicle is required to use the slow-moving vehicle sign.

When to use a SMV sign:

1. Vehicles or combinations of vehicles designed for customary use at speeds of less than 25 MPH.
2. Golf carts or similar vehicles when operated by a person with a disability.
3. Class I, Class II and Class IV all-terrain vehicles operated on a highway under ORS 821.191 (1).

Definition of a highway:

ORS 366.005 (6): "Highway" means every public way, road, street, thoroughfare and place, including bridges, viaducts and other structures within the boundaries of this state, open, used or intended for use of the general public for vehicles or vehicular traffic as a matter of right.

The passage of SB 487 would allow public safety officials to issue a citation to *any* use of a SMV sign that appears on a highway that is not listed above in ORS 815.110. Oregon Farm Bureau believes it is important to make this statutory change to give enforcement personnel the flexibility to enforce this law, especially when it is difficult to predict the many ways to improperly use a slow-moving vehicle emblem.

Thank you for your support of SB 487 and making Oregon's highways a safe place.