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Date: February 20, 2015 at 3:39:51 PM PST
To: "james.labar@state.or.us" <james.labar@state.or.us>
Cc: Brad Winters <bwinters@co.lake.or.us>, ""rtb5050@gmail.com"" <rtb5050@gmail.com>
Subject: Senate Bill 192 _ ATVs on state highways

RE: Comments for SB 192 Hearing, Monday the 23rd.

Good afternoon, James –

I and others from Lake County will not be able to be in person to comment on SB 192 during Monday's hearing.

As a facet of promoting Lake County economy by drawing ATV users from afar, as well as enhancing recreational opportunities for our citizenry, Lake County has embarked on allowing ATV use on designated county roads connecting key landmarks and recreational areas.

Of course, many of those county routes necessitate crossing of state highways. Also, additional county roads could be included for ATV use if segments of state highways are opened for ATV use.

On SB 192, I wish to submit my comments herein.

- I personally applaud the forward-thinking of SB 192 proponents. To my thoughts as a motorcyclists, for all concerned an ATV is actually as safe or safer than a bicycle, a moped, or a small motorcycle that are currently allowed on roadways. There will be a time period for all conventional auto drivers and ATV riders to get accustomed.

- SB 192 as reads:
 - There remains the prohibition of ATVs crossing a highway within 100 feet of an intersection.

This prohibition needs to be removed.

- Town of Lakeview ordinance allows ATV use on certain streets.
 - Hwy 395 transcends the Town north to south.
 - Currently, to adhere to the prohibition of not crossing at intersections, an ATV rider has to divert from a street to an ally in order to cross Hwy 395.

- Crossing a highway from one ally to an opposing ally is actually more dangerous than crossing at a street-to-highway intersection where motorists already expect a vehicle to cross.
- Lake County roads commonly cross a state highway.
 - Currently, to adhere to the prohibition an ATV rider must negotiate a highway ditch for 100 feet, then cross the highway, and negotiated the opposing ditch line to regain the county road.
 - Rather absurd.
- Concerning requirements of additional fixtures (turn signals, horn, etc.).
 - I consider such fairly reasonable for usage on highways.
 - I do suggest that consideration in some form be given to effects this might have on ATV riders from surrounding or distant states that do not require the same.
 - One large aspect of Lake County's interest in promoting ATV use is to draw and facilitate ATV use from surrounding states and other regions of the US.
 - Example: Individuals touring from a state back east and destination being Oregon Coast will need to utilize some of our state highways.
 - We should wish not to discourage or penalize visitors to Oregon because their home state requirements notably differs from Oregon's requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Ken Kestner

Lake County Commissioner

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