

From: Tami Kowing <stkskowing_87@hotmail.com>
Date: February 22, 2015 at 10:11:58 AM PST
To: "james.labar@state.or.us" <megan.chuinard@state.or.us>
Subject: **SB 192 Off Road Vehicle use on Highways**

To whom this may concern,

I am writing in support of SB 192 Off Road Vehicle use on Highways. This bill would Permit Class I, Class II or Class IV all-terrain vehicles to be operated on highways under certain circumstances if equipped with certain equipment approved by Department of Transportation. As a native Oregon resident and a resident of Grant County for the past 35 years I am in support of this bill.

The majority of the towns in Grant County have already passed Ordinances allowing ATV/UTV on City streets. I live in Canyon City and am the City Recorder in Mt. Vernon which have both passed Ordinances allowing the usage of ATV/UTV on the City streets. To my knowledge there has been very few issues with citizens following the rules. One of the main problems in these small towns is the existence of a main highway passing through the middle of town. There is no legal way on an ATV/UTV to get from one side of town to the other. The passing of this bill would solve that issue.

Passing SB 192 would allow citizens to travel more economically by using an ATV/UTV instead of a less economical vehicle. In small rural towns there are many people using pickups and SUV's which have lower economy than an ATV/UTV. This in turn could help the environment.

The City of John Day and the Town of Canyon City are connected by a football field. The only way to get from one town to the other is by way of Highway 395. Passing this bill would allow citizens the ability to travel from home to work, shopping, medical care, etc.

I know that Twin Falls, Idaho has legalized ATV/UTV use on all roads surrounding the city. Also, in Minnesota police are allowed to use them on any roads including highways.

Don't you think we should at least give this a chance.

I think that ATV/UTV's are at least as safe as a motorcycle for the highways. Look at the statistics for motorcycle accidents compared to ATV/UTV accidents. Even just comparing them to within city limits themselves. There are far fewer ATV/UTV mishaps than with motorcycles.

This bill also requires all-terrain vehicles operated on highways to fulfill financial responsibility requirements. I know as a responsible UTV owner I have insurance. I don't think this will be an issue. It would be the same as having insurance on your car or motorcycle.

I would like to thank you for your time. Please pass Senate Bill 192 as I have stated it will help the small rural communities with more economical daily commutes.

Tami Kowing Canyon City, OR