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AmericanMotorcyclist.com

April 6, 2015

The Honorable Caddy McKeown
House Committee On Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Opposition to HB 3455

Dear Chairman McKeown and Committee Members,

House Bill 3455 would set a troubling precedent by expanding membership of the state All-Terrain Vehicle Grants Subcommittee to include representatives from a specific interest group that benefits from grants voted on and distributed by the same committee and by allowing grant requests from that same category to be considered prior to those from other applicants. Simply stated, this bill proposes to grant additional authority to public agencies while shifting oversight and input away from the very community that is the source of these funds.

Founded in 1924, the AMA is the premier advocate for the motorcycling community and lifestyle. Our members are interested in any action that may affect their enjoyment of motorcycles and ATVs. Our mission is to promote the motorcycle lifestyle and protect the future of motorcycling and ATV recreation. However, this submission shall not preclude other individual AMA members, clubs or district organizations from submitting their own additional comment letters.

Oregon motorcycle and ATV riders have long supported safety and rider training. In fact, the state's ATV and off-highway-motorcycle training program is one of the most comprehensive nationwide and was implemented with strong support from the off-highway vehicle community. Grants to emergency medical services should be equally considered and funded when appropriate, but not given automatic priority over other important funding categories. Other state advisory groups, such as the Marine Board, have no such membership requirements and are instead relied upon to make funding determinations based on their expertise and the merits of the individual requests. The ATV Board should be granted equal faith when it comes to these important decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nick Haris', written in a cursive style.

Nicholas Haris
Western States Representative