

Submitter: John Omlin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2796

This testimony is in support of HB 2796.

Rural communities are landlocked to the National Forest, thus impacting their opportunity for economic gain.

A couple of years ago, the Mayor of Oakridge and I went before Lane County Commissioners and requested a short section of Lane County Road be open to Class IV ATVs for the purpose of accessing the Willamette National Forest near Hills Creek Reservoir. After review by the Lane County Legal Dept, that request was denied due to liability concerns. Passing this bill would remove those concerns and allow the access to be granted.

The Oakridge Community (and similar communities) would benefit by being a “tail head” for recreational activities in the nearby forest. Previously Class IV festivals were held drawing non-residences to the town for weekend activities in the National Forest. After the request for access as stated above Lane County said they would no longer grant a special use request for access across the county roads due to their legal council's findings.

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