

Co-Chairs Gorseck and McLain, Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, Members of the Committee,

Good afternoon. For the record my name is Mike Borg, and I would like to express my support for HB 3248. As an otherwise street legal UTV rider in the state of Oregon, I believe that allowing road legal UTVs and ATVs would provide greater access to the immense recreational areas in the state of Oregon and allow riders to travel more safely and efficiently on publicly accessible roads.

Currently, all ATV riders are forced to trailer their vehicles to and in between off-road areas, which can be inconvenient and time-consuming. By allowing road legal ATVs to traverse these rural areas it would provide riders with many more opportunities to explore and enjoy the great outdoors, while also reducing traffic congestion and the wear and tear on our roads. The passage of this bill would also consolidate the absolute mess of ATV laws and ordinances across the state into one, coherent policy - eliminating the confusion many ATV operators are prone to experiencing. I have had difficulty navigating these confusing laws, ordinances, and individual law enforcement officer interpretation of what is allowed on certain roads. For example, the US Forest Service MVUM designation of roads. In the national forests you can be on one dirt road that you are allowed to utilize but you can turn onto another connecting dirt road and you are instantly breaking Oregon law due to the current statutes. In many other states in the union these issues are nonexistent due to the recognition of ATVs that meet minimum safety standards being allowed to traverse these roads.

I understand that there are concerns about the safety of road legal ATVs, but I believe that with proper training and education, responsible riders can operate their vehicles safely on public roads. There is a plethora of data from other states as well as counties and cities within Oregon that attest to the benefits to their communities by allowing street legal ATVs to be used on the roads. I recently had a discussion with the Sweet Home Chief of police about the city ordinance which allows for the use of street legal ATVs within the city limits. He was telling me that his officers see little impact of the ATVs on the road and the only issue that they have seen is riders being confused by the state law which supersedes the local ordinance and does not allow riders to cross Highway 20 that bifurcates the town. This bill allows ODOT to set the rules and define which reasonable safety modifications need to be made to make an ATV road legal.

Overall, it is my firm belief that allowing road legal ATVs would be a positive step forward for the law-abiding citizens of Oregon. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Mike Borg*

Mike Borg

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*Location*

*Lebanon and La Pine Oregon*

