

March 9, 2023

Senator Gorsek
Representative McLain
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Transportation
82nd Legislative Assembly
Oregon House of Representatives
Oregon State Capitol

RE: HB 3248

Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Members of the Committee,

Please consider this written testimony as my support for HB 3248. As a retired Sheriff with over 36 years of law enforcement experience, I uniquely understand traffic safety and strongly support compliance and enforcement of our traffic laws. I am also an avid owner and operator of a Class IV UTV.

I believe the time is right for the State of Oregon to be proactive by street legalizing Class IV UTV's under specific circumstances and guidelines. The industry of Class IV UTV's has exploded over the last few years. It's not uncommon for consumers to wait up to a year to take delivery of a new vehicle. The number of new owners will continue to grow due in part, to the many trails systems and riding opportunities offered by the State of Oregon.

My support for HB 3248 is based on the need for increased traffic safety and consistency. Currently, owners/operators must trailer their UTV to their desired location, such as a day-use area or campground. Riding from campgrounds to trails often requires traveling on secondary roadways. This causes operators to violate the law and creates unsafe travel due to not having the proper equipment, lighting, turn signals, etc.

Numerous cities throughout our state have enacted local ordinances that allow Class IV UTV usage within their city limits. These ordinances vary in language and jurisdiction thus creating confusion, especially for visitors and tourists. Having a standardized state statute would clarify and streamline the requirements and expectations set forth by the State.

Lastly, once established and enacted, the licensing and registrations of such vehicles would generate a potential revenue stream.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Riley

Linn County Sheriff - Retired