

Submitter: David Schomburg
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3248

Good Evening, My name is David Schomburg and I consider myself a life long resident of Oregon having relocated here when I was a very young child from out of state. In my 40+ years in this state I have become very thankful of its natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities. I am here represent myself, my family and as a board member of the registered IRS Non-Profit Central Oregon SxS Club. Central Oregon SxS club was founded in January 2019 as a club for SxS/Class 4 OHV users, predominantly from Bend/Redmond area. The club has since grown to represent Class 4 users from all over the state and the region. Our membership is families, young and old. With some of our oldest active members being 80+ years old. Their only ability too see the beauty our state has to offer is from thier Class 4 OHV. Today our organization exists of 550+ formal members and 3300 members inside our Facebook Group. Our mission as a club is to provide safe and legal routes for our members to see the opportunities this state has to offer, as well as being a unified voice with Local, county, state and federal agencies to improve responsible and safe Class 4 OHV access. Traditionally class 1(I) & class 3(III) OHVs have been very limited in the range they are able to travel. A very long day as a user on one of these types of machines would be around 25-40 miles. A class 4(IV) ohv can cover 3 to 4 times that much area in a single day. Having the ability to create routes that connect rural areas & small towns together bring opportunity to all. In October 2014 the Lake County commissioners passed County Ordinance #104, it allowed OHVs onto county roads. This opened up many opportunities in Lake County. OHV Users can now operate legal routes starting on the National Forest land located approximately 30 miles east of Bend on HWY 20, all the way down south through the communities of Christmas Valley, Fort Rock, Silver Lake, Paisley, Lakeview and into the old abandoned Gold Mines of northern California. Being able to build more routes like these has been prevented due to current law in Oregon. Having state highway & county road OHV access would greatly be able to open up more of these routes and being able to bring great economic benefits to these new connected areas. I know many here on this committe will have concerns that a bill like this would bring OHVs direct into our urban & developed communities. Bills very similiar to this one have been passed by the states of Arizona, Idaho, Montana and others. OHV in urban & developed communities has not been a major problem for any of them. As a board and as a club, we fully endorse House Bill 3248. Thank you to the committe members for your time today.