



House Bill 3248

March 11, 2023

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3248

RE: In support of HB 3248

I have been a resident of Oregon for over 25 years. I move to Oregon to afford my family of 5 a better lifestyle and appreciation of the natural beauty this state has to offer. After 25 years of discovery there are still many places I can only dream of seeing.

House Bill 3248 allowing the use of Class 4 OHV on public roads is needed. It's much more than just the convenience it provides. Oregon is highly regarded as a beautiful state with some of the most varied terrain in the country from its high desert, Cascades and the ocean dunes. Unfortunately for some, seeing these areas is impossible without the help of a Class 4 OHV that can allow them access they otherwise be unable to transverse. Additionally the tourism to Oregon will be enhanced by reducing use restrictions on public roads. Currently access to riding places requires constant trailering with large pickups. This creates a congestion of trucks and trailers on roads leading to the trail access points. Additionally there are many campgrounds near trails that would economically benefit from allowing use of public roads to connect them to the trail access points. All businesses in these areas will benefit from the increased visitation. Allowing side by side use on public roads will also reduce the concentration of trucks and trailers at trail access points and the roads leading to them. Allowing public road use is also environmentally friendly. For one can say if public road use is allowed it will decrease the amount of fuel that is required to get to access points by eliminating the need to load up a trailer towed by a diesel truck. There is a local riding area by me that is only 5 miles from my house. About 2 miles of some back roads and 3 miles of dirt road leading directly to the trails. But currently I have to load up a 20' trailer and tow with my truck and since the dirt road is not trailer friendly I have to drive approximately 16 miles each way and at only 8 miles per gallon a complete waste of fuel. Fuel use trailering to and from trails access points is about 4 gallons, compare this to fuel use driving directly from my house where the fuel use is less than 1 gallon with my side by side (a Class 4 OHV)

House Bill 3248 will do the following:

- _ Reduce public road congestion
- _ Reduce parking requirements at parking lots allowing more people to visit and appreciate our public lands
- _ Environmentally friendly thanks to greatly reducing fuel demand from trailering
- _ Positive economic impact to businesses and communities nearby these areas of which many are in rural areas and economically depressed
- _ Most importantly House Bill 3248 allows access to our beautiful areas by more people and especially those that are not physically able to hike to some of our off the beaten path hidden gems. I have seen things that I never knew existed because of access using a Class 4 OHV off-road vehicle like a side by side. There are many more places my wife and I would like to explore but with the limitation to access through public roads we will miss out due to our physical limitations.

Thomas Ferrara