

Submitter: Kenneth Walters
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3248

Hello,

Thank you for taking this under serious consideration! As an avid UTV adventurer, Oregon's restrictions of use on public roadways, often times makes riding ATV's and UTV's a difficult and confusing venture. Due to Oregon's current laws strictly restricting ATV | UTV use, or lack there of, we decided in 2021 to purchase recreation property outside the state of Oregon in Idaho. Everytime we go to Idaho, it is fantastic to see that the public can utilize these machines on most public roadways, with sensible requirements and restrictions. Literally, we are always jealous of that freedom. I find it incredibly odd that people like to oppose the use of these machines on Oregon public roadways because ATV | UTV's are "unsafe", not held to some crash tested safety standards and etc. To be frank, that is a completely disingenuous reasoning to oppose their use for on public roadways, as motorcycles are not held to ANY of those kinds of standards and offer basically NO protection in an accident. An ATV should be looked at like a motorcycle with 4 wheels and a UTV (Side by Side) should be veiwed more closely to a dune buggy or something similar. At any rate, everyone who embarks in a vehicle of this nature are fully aware that there are inherent risks in using them and take appropriate precautions to maximize their safety.

When riding in the beautiful Oregon outdoors, it is very confusing as to where one can and can not ride these incredibly fun machines. Please vote to pass sensible use laws for ATV | UTV use on much of Oregon's public roads. Yes, stop, tail, turn lights, mirrors and DOT rated UTV tires should be needed. Please consider for use on roads up to 45mph.

I am sure you're all aware of which states allow their use on public roadways but if not, this website is a good summation of each states position.

<https://atvman.com/atv-laws/>

Kind Regards,
Ken Walters