



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer St. NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301-1271

(503) 986-0980

Fax (503) 986-0794

www.oregonstateparks.org



February 16, 2021

RE: Testimony on SB 106

Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain, Members of the Committee,

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) requests your support for SB 106 to expand the ATV safety education card program to Class IV, side-by-side vehicles.

Since 2014, most people operating ATVs on public land have been required to take a safety education course. The free online ATV safety education course is designed to teach riders about Oregon laws, safe riding practices and environmental awareness.

SB 106 would expand the requirement for safety education to include adult operators of Class IV ATVs. Side-by-sides are a fast-growing class of ATVs, often attracting new and less experienced riders. As a result, side-by-side accidents involving injuries have been increasing year-over-year.

OPRD tracks incidents involving ATVs as reported by the 14 counties that have law enforcement grants through the agency's ATV program. This data has indicated an increasing number of safety incidents involving class IV ATVs. In 2020, over 30% of the incidents reported involved a class IV ATV, even though they only represent around 15% of sales.

While Class I ATVs still account for the majority of vehicles recreating on public lands, the rise in number of Class IV vehicles and involvement in incidents is a troubling trend.

For riders aged 16 and older, safety training is online and free. For riders younger than 16, a hands-on course, which are normally provided by partner organizations, is required. Most hands-on courses charge a small fee.

OPRD is able to absorb the expansion of this requirement with existing staffing capacity. The only increase will be for the cost of printing and mailing additional safety education cards. SB 106 was developed based on recommendations of OPRD's ATV Safety Education Committee an appointed, volunteer group of ATV riders, first responders and agency representatives who advise OPRD on ATV safety requirements.

