



Representative Bobby Levy

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Good evening, Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Boquist, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis, members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy, state representative for House District 58. I am excited to express my support for House Bill 2796.

In many rural communities, it is not uncommon to see an ATV sharing the road with cars, trucks, and tractor trailers. Most ATVs are already street-legal, but there are critical gaps in permitting their operation on roads throughout Oregon. Farmers and ranchers often use ATVs to traverse large properties as they raise cattle and crops. Farming and ranching properties that are not contiguous or lack connecting internal roads commonly require travel on county roads to ensure reliable transportation.

Rural communities and counties need flexibility to determine which portions of county-owned roads can be accessed by all ATVs at all times. HB 2796 provides counties with this flexibility without forcing them to take action. Once passed, this legislation will allow Commissioners to designate ATV highway access routes on county roads in concert with the State's ATV Highway Access Routes Advisory Committee. This ensures that farmers and ranchers can work with local authorities to better allocate roadway access to ATVs after engagement with the community. It also bolsters municipal autonomy for incorporated cities where roads are primarily owned by counties.

I urge the committee to support HB 2796 to support the transportation needs of rural communities where ATV access to highways is critical for agriculture.

Best,
Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58