

Joint Committee On Transportation HB3248

Co-Chairs Gorseck and McLain, Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Bill Milem; and I would like to express my support for HB 3248.

Today's ATV is not the toy of yesterday but an essential tool of industry and a recreational income generator for our rural communities. Industries that use the ATV as a tool include; construction, farming, law enforcement, logging, fire fighting, property management, etc. The ATV recreational user is a prime source of income to many rural communities across the west, Sumpter being an Oregon example. Today's ATV users need access to secondary roads to fully appreciate the economic advantages the ATV gives them and their communities.

Today's ATV meets EPA pollution standards and USDOT safety standards. The ATV is licensed in 29 states for on-highway use. In these states the ATV has proven to be safe when operated in compliance with licensing laws. In fact, I could find no reported injuries or deaths of a legally operated ATV user in 2022, on public road where the ATV was operated in accordance with the laws of that state. As I understand this bill, it would give ODOT broad authority to only issue licenses for an ATV that would meet safety standards set by ODOT, after public comment.

Some will object to the cost of enforcement of ATV licensing regulations, but this bill addresses those cost arguments. ODOT will be able to set licensing fees that the bill assumes will cover costs, thus there should be no net burden on the state budget. If this bill were to pass the ATV safety regulation enforcement will be wholly funded by the ATV users.

In conclusion, HB 3248 is a unique opportunity for our to state to take the lead in ATV safety, promote business and capitalize on the 145 billion dollar ATV industry of the future. I encourage the members of this committee to move this urgently needed bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

*Bill Milem*