

To whom it may concern,

I am in support of HB 2796. I have traveled and explored some of the best parts of Oregon on my ATV - over 15 thousand miles. I have seen many spectacular sights that all Oregonians should have the opportunity discover and experience. Most of these places are available to view from an automobile but due to the conditions of the roads make it inherently not realistic. Rough roads and dangerous conditions keep most average travellers with cars and trucks from the best of Oregon.

On many of my trips around Oregon travel was difficult not because of the road conditions but from a lack of access..... times that dirt roads and trails were near other connecting roads and trails but were not accessible because it was illegal to travel a short distance on a rural roadway.

I admit that several times I broke the rules to continue on a path to a desired location - to get back to camp before dark - from being caught in a storm - or running out of fuel in the middle of nowhere. Most of these roads had little or no traffic.

I have been to Sumpter and Lakeview Oregon where the road rules pertaining to all-terrain vehicles are more permissive. I have also been to Mackay Idaho which has similar rules. Access to roads and trails made the difference in my experience. Being able to ride from where we were staying to each days trip- and not loading and unloading trailers to travel a short distance- made a substantial difference. In those towns it was easy to purchase fuel, groceries, have meals at the local establishments, and see the attractions around town. It is those factors that will keep me going back as long as I am able.

Being a senior citizen, I would like to continue seeing much more of Oregon. By allowing legal all-terrain vehicles access to appropriate county roads will enable me and many others like me to see the parts Oregon we know and love.

Respectfully,

Mike O'Connor