

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

March 11, 2023

Senator Gorsek
Representative McLain
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Transportation
82nd Legislative Assembly
Oregon House of Representatives
Oregon State Capitol

RE: HB 3248

Co-Chairs Gorseck and McLain, Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, Members of the Committee,

Please consider this written testimony as my support for HB 3248. I have been an Oregon resident for the past 32 years. Oregon is a beautiful place to live and explore the outdoors. I purchased my first Class IV UTV 2 years ago. I enjoy exploring new trails and places in the UTV. I enjoy the OHV areas, however, most OHV areas have significant restrictions when it comes to Class IV UTVs. I enjoy taking the UTV into the mountain ranges and driving on roads that allow the use of Class IV vehicles. However, the maps can be extremely confusing to follow and determine which roads we can/cannot drive Class IV vehicles on. This sets up the potential to unknowingly violate the law and creates unsafe travel due to not having the proper lighting, side mirrors, turn signals, etc.

Currently, as an owner/operator, I have to trailer my Class IV UTV to desired riding locations. This creates more traffic, as well as more wear and tear on the roads. Being able to drive the UTV to the desired locations, allows for less weight and length on our roadways. It also saves a significant amount of fuel.

As a resident of Central Oregon, snow/ice conditions are very common during our winter months. Most Class IV UTVs are equipped with four wheel drive. Class IV UTVs typically handle very well in these conditions, making them a safe way to travel when needed. It would make running errands safer and less stressful in these weather conditions.

As a frequent visitor to the state of Idaho, I have seen firsthand the convenience of being able to legally drive your Class IV UTVs on roads, within city limits. Idaho limits

the use of Class IV UTVs to roadways with a speed limit of 45mph or under. In my opinion, that seems to be an appropriate limit.

With proper training, safety equipment, laws, etc. I feel like this can be a very successful bill for all parties. It allows the owners of Class IV UTVs to access more places, run simple errands, and explore more of our beautiful state. The licensing and registration of Class IV vehicles would generate a revenue stream.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brad Walters