



Oregon

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To: Co-chairs Gorsek and McLain, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Matthew Davis, Policy and External Affairs Manager, Oregon Department of Quality

Subject: DEQ Analysis of HB 2232

House Bill 2232 transfers the authority to establish noise standards, through rules, for off-road vehicles [currently ORS 821.030(2)] from the Environmental Quality Commission to the State Parks and Recreation Department.

DEQ has no position on the measure, and has no concern with transferring this authority.

DEQ, upon Legislative approval, terminated the Noise Control Program in July 1991 as an agency cost-savings measure due to elimination of General Fund support. There has not been a state noise program at DEQ since that time. Noise control statutes and rules were intentionally left intact because a variety of governmental entities rely on those rules in the course of their work. This includes noise standards for Off-Road vehicles that now require updating.

To the degree regulations relating to noise control and off-road vehicles need updating, it makes sense that work be overseen by an agency with relevant expertise, staffing and regular interactions with off-road vehicle users.

DEQ also wants to acknowledge and thank the state's ATV Advisory Committee for engaging DEQ on their proposal and legislative fix.