

Submitter: Jacob Kiefer
On Behalf Of:
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Testimony in Support of Legislation Allowing Operation of Class I, III, and IV All-Terrain Vehicles on Non-Interstate Highways
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Oregon Legislative Assembly

Chairperson, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Jacob Kiefer, and I am the Operations Director of Kiefer Auto Group, a family-owned and operated business in Oregon that has been serving our community for over 30 years.

I am here today to express our strong support for the proposed legislation that would allow the operation of Class I, Class III, and Class IV all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on non-interstate highways, provided that the vehicles meet necessary safety and equipment standards and are properly registered.

As an automotive business deeply embedded in Oregon's local economy, we understand the needs of both recreational vehicle owners and those seeking practical alternatives for transportation in our rural communities. This legislation provides an innovative solution that addresses both the growing demand for ATV access on non-interstate highways and enhances the safety of these vehicles on public roads.

1. Encouraging Economic Growth and Tourism:

Oregon is home to many scenic, rural areas that attract outdoor enthusiasts, including ATV riders, from all over the country. By allowing these vehicles to legally operate on non-interstate highways, this measure opens up new opportunities for tourism and local businesses. Riders will be able to access popular attractions more easily, boosting spending in small communities, local shops, hotels, and restaurants. Kiefer Auto Group, as well as many of our colleagues in the outdoor industry, stand to benefit from the increase in tourism and economic activity that this legislation would encourage.

2. Promoting Safety through Regulation:

It is crucial to emphasize that the safety of ATV operators and the general public is of utmost importance. The proposed legislation ensures that all ATVs operated on public roads must meet specific equipment standards, creating a safer environment for all road users. By requiring proper registration and adhering to safety requirements, the measure helps to eliminate concerns about unregulated or unsafe vehicles. The enhanced oversight will also make it easier to educate operators about

the rules of the road, reducing potential accidents and making ATV usage safer for everyone.

3. Supporting Rural Transportation Solutions:

For many people in rural areas, especially in regions where roads may not be well-served by traditional public transportation, all-terrain vehicles provide an essential alternative for getting from place to place. By extending the ability to use Class I, III, and IV ATVs on non-interstate highways, this bill provides an effective means of transportation for people living in more remote parts of Oregon, where other options may be limited. This promotes inclusivity and helps to address transportation needs in areas that may otherwise be overlooked.

4. Environmental Considerations:

As Oregon continues to emphasize sustainable practices, the use of off-road vehicles such as ATVs can be a more environmentally friendly option for some rural transport needs compared to traditional vehicles. Given that modern ATVs are often designed with environmentally friendly technology, including fuel-efficient engines and reduced emissions, we believe this legislation aligns with Oregon's environmental goals while allowing for a broader range of mobility options.

In conclusion, I strongly encourage the Oregon Legislature to support this legislation that will enable the legal operation of Class I, Class III, and Class IV ATVs on non-interstate highways, provided they meet the necessary safety and registration requirements. This forward-thinking measure supports tourism, economic growth, rural transportation, and overall safety. At Kiefer Auto Group, we are committed to e