

Submitter: Shirlee Benell
On Behalf Of: Lakeside Riders
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3155

Please approve HB 3155. The economic impact for our state and rural communities would be substantial and is much needed. I was the President of Lakeside Riders and a Chief Petitioner for OHV Access in the City of Lakeside. We have enjoyed the benefits of access greatly. We have new small businesses starting up, and new visitors riding in to frequent restaurants, lodging, off-road supply shops, and so much more. We have had zero incidents in the three years that our city has enjoyed the much needed revenue that access has provided through more overnight stays generating TLT revenue, and we are pleased when we see riders coming in to support our local businesses. OHV funds have helped our local law enforcement immensely.

It has also brought something that money can't buy to our community! The large riding community has become a family. A large group that volunteers extreme amounts of time for trash clean ups, route maintenance, Main Street enhancement, park restoration, fund raising for local charities, hosting local events, becoming active in local civic meetings and committees, group rides, and so much more. We have become a FAMmunity, for that I am ever grateful, and the be honest it is priceless. Oregon needs to follow suit of our surrounding states and reap the many benefits that access will provide.