

Submitter: Brigitte Mendoza  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3155

Honorable Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to urge the state of Oregon to consider allowing All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) to be legally operated on public roads under appropriate regulations. Many states across the U.S. have successfully implemented road-legal ATV policies, providing significant benefits to their residents and local economies. Oregon should follow suit to improve transportation options, boost tourism, and enhance rural connectivity.

## Reasons and Benefits of Road-Legal ATVs in Oregon

### 1. Economic Boost for Rural Communities

Allowing road-legal ATVs would provide a significant economic benefit to Oregon's rural areas. Many small towns rely on outdoor recreation tourism, and ATV-friendly policies would encourage more visitors to explore local businesses, campgrounds, restaurants, and gas stations. States such as Arizona and Utah have seen increases in revenue and business growth after implementing similar laws.

### 2. Improved Transportation in Rural Areas

Many rural communities in Oregon lack efficient public transportation options. ATVs offer a practical and affordable means of transportation, especially in areas where traditional vehicles may be impractical due to road conditions. Allowing ATVs on public roads would give residents more flexibility in their daily commutes and errands.

### 3. Environmental and Fuel Efficiency Benefits

ATVs, particularly newer models, are fuel-efficient and produce fewer emissions compared to larger trucks and SUVs. For short-distance travel, ATVs can be a more eco-friendly alternative, reducing overall carbon footprints. Many electric and hybrid ATVs are now available, further supporting sustainable transportation efforts.

### 4. Enhanced Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

Oregon is known for its vast outdoor recreational opportunities. Legalizing ATV use on roads would allow enthusiasts to travel between trails, parks, and campgrounds without needing to transport their vehicles on trailers. This seamless experience

would encourage more visitors, boosting tourism revenue across the state.

## 5. Public Safety and Regulatory Oversight

By legalizing ATVs on roads and implementing appropriate regulations—such as requiring safety inspections, licensing, insurance, and proper safety gear—Oregon can ensure that ATV riders operate responsibly. In contrast, the current restrictions often lead to unregulated and potentially unsafe riding practices. States that have adopted road-legal ATV policies with proper oversight have not seen significant increases in accidents.

### Recommendations for Implementation

To ensure the safe and responsible use of road-legal ATVs, Oregon could implement the following measures:

- **ATV Registration & Licensing:** Require registration similar to motorcycles or other off-road vehicles.
- **Safety Equipment & Training:** Mandate helmets, lights, turn signals, and safety courses for riders.
- **Road Restrictions:** Limit ATV use to roads with speed limits of 45 mph or lower, except in designated areas.
- **Local Control:** Allow counties and municipalities to set their own regulations based on community needs.

Allowing road-legal ATVs in Oregon would provide numerous benefits, including economic growth, improved transportation options, environmental advantages, and enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities. By implementing appropriate regulations, the state can ensure safety while also supporting rural communities and businesses. I urge the Legislature to consider these benefits and take action to make Oregon a leader in ATV-friendly policies.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to improving transportation and economic opportunities across our great state.

Sincerely,

Brigitte Mendoza

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