

Submitter: Larry Enneman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3155

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of legislation that permits the operation of Class I, Class III, and Class IV all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on highways that are not interstate highways, provided the vehicles meet required equipment standards and are properly registered.

This proposed legislation is a common-sense approach that enhances safety, accessibility, and economic opportunities for ATV owners, while maintaining clear safety guidelines and accountability for their use.

### 1. Safety and Equipment Standards

The requirement that ATVs must meet specific vehicle equipment standards ensures that only well-maintained, roadworthy vehicles are permitted to operate on highways. This ensures that ATVs are equipped with the necessary features, such as headlights, taillights, turn signals, and brakes, which will enhance visibility and control for riders, improving safety for both ATV operators and other motorists. By aligning ATV equipment requirements with current vehicle safety standards, we are taking important steps toward ensuring safer interaction between various types of vehicles on the road.

### 2. Registration and Accountability

Requiring that ATVs be properly registered on public highways creates a mechanism for accountability, encouraging responsible ownership and operation. Registration also ensures that operators are subject to the same legal and financial responsibilities as other motor vehicle drivers, such as insurance requirements and adherence to local traffic laws. This provision helps law enforcement easily identify vehicles, promoting safer roads and increased responsibility for ATV operators.

### 3. Economic and Recreational Benefits

Many residents in rural areas or areas with limited infrastructure rely on ATVs for both work and recreation. Allowing these vehicles to access highways (other than interstates) provides individuals with greater freedom of movement, improving their ability to travel between communities, access services, or enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities. This legislation promotes tourism, as enthusiasts from outside the region will have easier access to the expansive trail systems and recreation areas that are vital to the local economy.

Furthermore, expanding ATV access on non-interstate highways will benefit local businesses that serve the outdoor recreation community. By promoting responsible

ATV use, we can stimulate local economies and bring attention to beautiful, underappreciated rural areas.

#### 4. Environmental Considerations

The bill ensures that all-terrain vehicles meet environmental standards, which helps minimize the negative impact on the environment. When ATVs are restricted to specific roadways, there is less chance for off-road vehicles to damage environmentally sensitive areas or trails that are not designed for such use. Keeping these vehicles on regulated routes mitigates environmental harm while also protecting the quality of our natural landscapes.

#### 5. Precedent in Other States

Similar legislation has been successfully implemented in many states across the nation with positive results. States like Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin have enacted similar laws, which have been effective in promoting safety, supporting rural economies, and providing ATV enthusiasts with greater access to areas they enjoy. This legislation can mirror those successes while addressing local needs.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, this legislation strikes a critical balance between expanding the rights of ATV owners and maintaining public safety and environmental standards. By ensuring that these vehicles are roadworthy, registered, and restricted to non-interstate highways, we can create a framework that benefits the community while reducing risks for everyone.

I urge you to support this measure, as it will contribute to a safer, more accessible, and economically vibrant future for our state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Larry Enneman  
702-210-4281