

Submitter: Justin Murphy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3155

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed legislation to allow Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) to operate on designated highways in Oregon. As a resident of Oregon and an avid outdoor enthusiast, I believe that the responsible use of UTVs on highways would provide numerous benefits to both the state's economy and recreational community.

Safety and Regulation:

The current laws in Oregon do not allow UTVs to operate on highways, even though these vehicles are designed for road-worthy use when equipped with the proper safety equipment. Under the proposed legislation, UTVs would be required to meet certain safety standards, such as having seat belts, headlights, turn signals, and mirrors, much like other vehicles on the road. This would ensure that UTV operators, passengers, and other drivers are protected and that UTVs are operating within a regulated framework.

Economic Impact:

Allowing UTVs on highways would open up new opportunities for tourism and recreation. Oregon is home to vast natural landscapes, including trails, forests, and scenic byways, which attract outdoor recreationists from all over the country. By permitting UTVs to travel on highways, we would create a new avenue for tourism, benefiting local businesses in rural and tourist-driven areas. This could significantly boost our economy, particularly in rural communities where outdoor recreation is a key industry.

Environmental Considerations:

UTVs are increasingly being designed with eco-friendly features, such as electric engines and fuel-efficient motors. These vehicles, when used properly, can be a sustainable alternative to traditional motorized vehicles. Additionally, allowing UTVs to travel on highways could reduce traffic congestion and provide an alternative to using larger vehicles that are less fuel-efficient.

Quality of Life and Community:

For many Oregonians, UTVs are an important part of their lifestyle, providing access to outdoor activities, facilitating family recreation, and serving as a practical means of transportation in rural areas. By allowing UTVs to operate on designated highways, we will improve the quality of life for rural residents and recreational enthusiasts while

fostering a greater sense of community and accessibility.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that the benefits of permitting UTVs on highways in Oregon outweigh the challenges. This legislation would not only promote safety and regulation, but it would also encourage tourism, support the state's economy, and enhance the quality of life for many Oregonians.

Thank you for considering this important issue, and I urge you to support the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,
Justin Murphy