

ERIK SEVERSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 28TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on Assembly Bill 44 Assembly Committee on Transportation

April 10, 2013

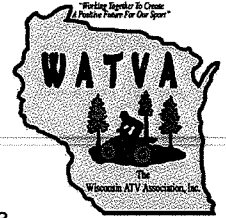
I would like to thank Chairman Ripp and the members of the committee for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 44. I would also like to thank Sen. Leibham for his leadership on this important issue. Joining me for today's hearing is Randy Harden and Rob McConnell of the Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association

Currently, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has established an informal off-road vehicle council (ORV) to assist the DNR with expenditures from the all-terrain vehicle account maintained by the Department. This legislation seeks to provide a formal ORV in statute in order to allow ATV and UTV riders more input on matters relating to ATV trails and routes, as well as making recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources concerning expenditure of the all-terrain vehicle fund. Current law provides this opportunity to snowmobile riders through the Snowmobile Recreational Council.

Local ATV/UTV riders are Wisconsin's best resource when it comes to maintaining our trails and routes. I believe it is important that we rely on their expertise when making decisions that affect riders. By gathering input from our in-state riders, Wisconsin can ensure that our trails are the best in the Midwest. This benefits the tourism industry by increasing out of state trail use. It is also important to note that riders have a vested interest in these funds as they are the ones who pay fees that make up the account.

I encourage you to support this legislation and to allow the DNR to utilize ATV/UTV enthusiasts throughout the state in order to continue to improve upon our already phenomenal trail system here in Wisconsin.

Thank you again Chairman Ripp and Committee Members for taking the time to hold this public hearing and I look forward to working with you on passage of this legislation.



Assembly Committee on Transportation

Chair – Representative Ripp

*Representatives Thiesfeldt, Spiros, Ott, Sanfelippo, Endsley, Larson, Kaufert, Stone,
Bernard Schaber, Vruwink, Doyle, Danou, Riemer, & Kolste*

AB 44 (SB 29) - Relating to the creation of an off-road vehicle council

Requesting your support for AB 44

- This bill corrects past administrative action that removed the standing and status of the original ORV Council
- Expands the advice and recommendation role to include the Dept. of Natural Resources, the Dept. of Transportation, the Governor's office and the State Legislature
- Current status is only advisory to Dept. of Natural Resources which requires same stance and position as the Dept. with no independent position(s)
- As ATV & UTV registration numbers continue to grow, the equally increasing, self-generated fund should have the same citizen oversight and status that other registration programs have (i.e. Snowmobile Council)
- Recommendations and advice for which ATV grant applications are approved for funding will continue to be a high priority for this council
- The user group that generates the fund, should control the decisions regarding their fund

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