



# ANDRÉ JACQUE

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TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation & Veterans Affairs  
FROM: Rep. André Jacque  
DATE: December 5, 2017  
RE: Senate Bill 437 and Assembly 442

Chairman Petrowski and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on Assembly Bill 442 and its companion, Senate Bill 437, commonsense bi-partisan legislation I have brought forward with Sen. Rob Cowles that would clarify Wis. Stat. § 23.33(8) regarding the signing of ATV routes.

Under current law, municipalities that designate a highway as an ATV route must install signs to alert ATV users of the route. However, state statutes do not specify the frequency of the signs.

This legislation provides clarity by creating two separate methods of signing ATV routes:

1. If a municipality has designated all highways as ATV routes, it could satisfy the signing requirement by posting signs at the entrance of all highways leading into the town.
2. If the municipality has designated only certain highways as ATV routes, then the municipality would be required to sign any entrances to that designated route.

Several towns have contacted me to request this change to provide uniformity and clear direction to state statutes, as the law is currently open to widely varying interpretation, to the extent that two similar towns could differ in the number of signs directed by the DNR from more than 400 versus roughly 40 signs.

In one example, the town of Holland in Brown County was told to install a sign every half-mile even though all roads are open to ATVs. The town of Humboldt in Brown County has informed me of the same situation in their town. In other areas, municipalities are given much more discretion for the frequency of sign placement. This statutory change would provide guidance to ATV users and municipalities alike, as both would have certain expectations of where to expect the placement of ATV route signs. Town board members from Franklin and Morrison in my district and numerous other local officials outside of it have contacted me in support of this legislation, as they are interested in opening town roads to ATVs and UTVs and the present local interpretation directly inhibits their desire to do so.

AB 442 is supported by the Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. AB 442 passed the Assembly Transportation Committee unanimously and passed the full Assembly on a voice vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Assembly Bill 442 and Senate Bill 437.

Wisconsin ATV / UTV Association  
1539 N. 33<sup>rd</sup> Place, Suite A  
Sheboygan, WI 53081

To: Transportation and Veterans Affairs  
Re: Senate Bill 437 / AB 442 Relating to All-Terrain Vehicle Route Signage

Members of the Committee,

The ATV and UTV program in Wisconsin continues to grow at an astonishing rate. With this growth, local communities throughout Wisconsin are finding the economic benefit of allowing ATV's and UTV's access to their local road systems. This access is not only vital to support our nearly 2,000 miles of off-road trails by connecting them together, but also to serve the needs of local citizens who enjoy the sport for local access purposes.

Throughout 2017 the Wisconsin ATV / UTV Association held meetings with our partners to seek opinions of how the route systems are shaping the future of our sport. During these meetings, the topic of route signage was always a key focal point of many discussions.

ATV routes have served as the vital connections between off-road trail systems for many years. As route systems began to grow, so did the need to properly sign them in hopes of providing proper navigational aids. This system worked well when it was a few open routes within a community. However, when many of the roads were opened within a community, the navigation aids were not effective for navigating to another trail or service, which was the original intent of a road route.

We support the bill purpose of only signing the entrance point to communities in which all roads are opened for access. Wisconsin ATV / UTV Association discussed at length with our law enforcement agency partners about also including prohibited ATV use signs on the exit points and highways which do not allow ATV traffic. This provision is important to prevent riders from traveling on restricted areas which can quickly become a major law enforcement issue.

The Wisconsin ATV / UTV Association supports SB 437 & AB 442.



Randy Harden

President

Wisconsin ATV / UTV Association

