



State Representative Greg Smith

House District 57

*Serving Union, Wallowa, Umatilla,
& Morrow Counties*

News Release:

February 5, 2007

Rep Smith Warns: ATV Enthusiasts Could Face More Regulations

(Salem) "I always get a little uncomfortable when we start trying to legislate common sense," said [State Representative Greg Smith](#) after reviewing a series of bills moving through the Capitol to restrict the use of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV). Smith is a member of the House Transportation Committee which heard three of these bills on Monday. (16 year old Grant Smith pictured right)



The [Oregon Parks Department](#) is proposing these [new rules](#) because they feel it will enhance safety. "There are five children in my immediate family and we love to ride ATVs," explained Smith "I also think it is my job as a parent to teach them how to ride responsibly and safety. Our family chooses to wear helmets when we ride. I'm not convinced more government intervention is necessary. We may be talking about a solution in search of a problem."

The legislation considered by the House Transportation Committee included the following:

[House Bill 2062](#) requires anyone over 18 years old to wear a helmet on an ATV. ([Current law](#) already requires anyone under 18 to use a helmet)

[House Bill 2063](#) prohibits passengers on ATVs not specifically designed for them.

[House Bill 2064](#) requires ATVs to have a title through the Oregon Department of Transportation.

In addition to these bills, on the Senate side, there are two pieces of legislation to further [restrict the use of ATVs by children under 15](#) and to require [mandatory safety training](#) for all operators.

"Thousands of residents in Eastern Oregon ride ATVs. There are dozens of off-road areas where families like mine love to go and take their kids," pointed out Smith. "We already have laws on the books to hold reckless drivers accountable. Why should we put up roadblocks to family fun when we're not sure this will lead to a significant increase in safety?"

Representative Smith is also worried that the state is unfairly targeting one segment of the recreation industry without looking at larger policy implications. "What about snowmobiles? You don't need protective headgear to ride one of those. What's next, requiring adults to wear helmets on bicycles? And are we going to require titles for jet skis, scooters and segways?"

Residents are encouraged to let their State Representatives and Senators know what they think about the proposed changes for ATVs. Go to www.leg.state.or.us to contact your legislators.

####

900 Court Street NE H-280 Salem, OR 97301 ~ www.leg.state.or.us/smithg

Rep.gregsmith@state.or.us ~ 503.986.1457

PO Box 219, Heppner, OR, 97836 ~ 541-676-5154