



State Representative Greg Smith

House District 57

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

News Release:

February 12, 2007

ATV Riders Rally At State Capitol To Preserve Family Fun

(Salem) “We hope to bring common sense and real life experience into this picture,” said Lindy Minten who is organizing a rally for a group of families who like to ride their All Terrain Vehicles. Minten is part of SAFETYride which stands for Sensible Alternatives for Educating and Training Youth. **The rally is scheduled for 3 PM – 5 PM Tuesday February 13th on the Capitol Steps in Salem.** The group is fighting Senate Bill 49 which Minten believes will “take the family out of four wheeling.”

Minten and others are voicing opposition to Senate Bill 49 which further [restricts the use of ATVs by children under 16](#). The measure would prohibit children under 12 from riding ATV's or motorcycles and limit children 12 to 16 years old to vehicles with engines 90 cubic centimeters or less. The Scio mom explained, “our whole family rides on ATVs including our three children. We're concerned this legislation will not only cut into our family recreation time but might also hamper our ability to do work around our farm.”

[State Representative Greg Smith](#) (R-Heppner), a member of the House Transportation Committee [is concerned](#) about SB 49 as well as several [other proposals](#) moving through the legislature. Many of these bills were proposed by the [Oregon Parks Department](#). One of these bills, [House Bill 2064](#), requiring titles for all ATVs through the Oregon Department of Transportation is up for **a hearing this afternoon, February 12th, in the House Transportation Committee at 3 PM in Room 357.**

Safety information will be distributed at the rally because Minten believes one key to reducing ATV accidents and injuries is education. “More importantly parents need to take responsibility; supervise their children and ride with their children,” added Minten. “Families that ride together stay together.”

Minten estimates there are more than 500,000 riders in Oregon. She pointed out children grow at different rates and in some cases this new law would put an adult size child on a child sized vehicle. She would rather work with the Parks Department on a “best fit” approach.

The sponsors of Senate Bill 49 are [Senator Richard Devlin](#) (D-Tualatin) and [Senator Alan Bates](#) (D-Ashland). You can check out the legislature's web site www.leg.state.or.us to contact these senators and let them know how you feel about the bill.

####

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