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Testimony on Senate Bill 29 Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs

March 14, 2013

I would like to thank Chairman Petrowski and the members of the committee for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 29. I would also like to thank Sen. Leibham for his leadership on this important issue. I apologize that I am not able to be here in person but wanted to submit a copy of my testimony along with registering my support for this legislation.

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 Petrowski 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.