



TERRY MOULTON



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

23RD SENATE DISTRICT

From: Senator Terry Moulton
To: Senate Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs
Re: Testimony regarding Senate Bill 225
Relating to: Golf Cart Crossing Points
Date: September 15, 2015

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 225. We have worked closely with the Department of Transportation on this bill and are happy to offer it for review by your committee today.

Municipalities currently have the ability to create legal crossings for snowmobiles and other vehicles over state and county highways within their jurisdiction. However, state statutes are unclear and even contradictory when it comes to a municipality's ability to create a golf cart crossing over a state or county highway within their jurisdiction.

The city of Loyal in Clark County, like many cities and towns across Wisconsin, is bisected by a state highway that runs both east and west and north and south through the center of the city. City officials have been developing ordinances that would allow golf carts to operate on city streets, however they have stopped their efforts after their city attorney advised that the statutes are too unclear to proceed. While the power to allow golf carts to operate on city streets is clearly outlined, the law is unclear and even contradictory on establishing golf cart crossing points over a county or state highway. This bill aims to clarify the law by correcting the contradiction and ensuring that municipalities feel confident when writing ordinances related to golf cart crossing points.

Crossings would only be established on areas of highway within the municipality's jurisdiction with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less. The cost of the signs would be paid for by the municipality, while installation and maintenance would be taken up by state or county.

This bill was requested by local government officials in our district, but it has come to our attention that several towns throughout Wisconsin have had similar questions when attempting to establish ordinances related to golf carts.

Senate Bill 225 is important to both my district and people across Wisconsin which is why I am pleased this bill is receiving a hearing today. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and for allowing me to testify.

Serving the 23rd Senate District

I'm Dave Williams, Mayor of the City of Loyal.

I would like to thank the Chairman and committee members for holding a public hearing on the Assembly bill regarding golf carts crossing state highways.

In the city of Loyal it is not possible to travel from east to west or north to south without crossing the state highway that bisects the city. At this time, if a state highway bisects a city or village there is no access to the entire city without illegally crossing the state highway with a cart.

We have developed a city ordinance allowing the use of golf carts on city streets if they pass street legal requirements. They must also pass inspections by the Loyal Police Department. We also will require an annual city license fee.

When we did research on writing the ordinance, we studied several cities in the state. Several have ordinances that are currently in effect and also have state highways within their city or village limits.

We feel a clarification is needed to meet the new DOT statute that does not allow a cart to cross a state highway. We also feel that within a small city such as Loyal (pop. 1264) or a village, the governing body should have the right to allow carts to travel from one side of the city or village to the other as long as they meet the city ordinance requirements.

We are requesting a change in the existing DOT statute that does not allow a golf cart to cross state highways. The previous statute allowed carts to cross state highways for access to golf courses, etc. We would like the ability to allow carts to cross state highways that are within city or village limits just as ATV's and snowmobiles are allowed with proper signage. This legislation would correct the problem we have stated allowing carts to cross the highway within city or village limits legally.

Carts offer an economical and environmentally safe means of transportation to access city businesses as well as mobility for those otherwise limited.

I ask for your support in this issue.