



January 17, 2023

The Honorable Robert D. Orrock  
900 E Main St  
Pocahontas Building, E309  
Richmond, VA 23219-3548

**Re: ROHVA opposes HB 1557**

Dear Delegate Orrock:

The Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA)<sup>1</sup> opposes HB 1557 because it allows “modified utility vehicles” to register and operate on certain public highways. Under the bill, this definition would apply to certain modified recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs – sometimes referred to as side-by-sides or UTVs).

ROHVA’s primary goal is to promote safe and responsible use of ROVs. ROHVA opposes legislation allowing ROVs on roads that are not part of a designated trail system because:

- ROV manufacturers design, test, and sell ROVs for *off-highway use only*.
- Unlike cars and trucks, ROVs do not meet Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Allowing ROVs on roads falsely signals that this practice is safe. It is not. ROV manufacturers, along with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, stress that ROVs are not designed for use on public roadways. The vehicles do not handle properly on paved roads. They also lack safety equipment required to protect occupants in the event of a collision. On-road ROV operators and passengers face increased risks of losing vehicle control. Collisions with cars and trucks also pose an increased risk of injury. These risks remain even when owners or aftermarket providers install different tires or modify ROV equipment in other ways.

ROHVA urges states to prohibit ROV use on public roads and strengthen law enforcement efforts to eliminate this dangerous practice. States could prevent a substantial number of ROV-related injuries if laws kept ROVs off public roads, which ROHVA proposes in its model legislation.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ROHVA is a national, not-for-profit trade association formed to promote the safe and responsible use of recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs) manufactured or distributed in North America. ROHVA is also accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to serve as the Standards Developing Organization for ROVs. An ROV is a motorized off-highway vehicle that is compliant with the ANSI/ROHVA 1 standard. More information on the standard can be found at <https://rohva.org/ansi-standard/>. ROVs are designed to travel on four or more tires, intended by the manufacturer for use by one or more persons and having the following characteristics: a steering wheel for steering control; a Roll Over Protective Structure complying with ANSI/ROHVA-1; an Occupant Retention System complying with ANSI/ROHVA-1; non-straddle seating; maximum speed capability greater than 30 mph; less than 80 inches in overall width, exclusive of accessories; and engine displacement of less than 1,000cc. Current models are designed with seats for a driver and one or more passengers.

<sup>2</sup> <https://rohva.org/model-law/>

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 703-416-0444 ext. 3202.

Sincerely,



Scott P. Schloegel  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

Cc: Department of Motor Vehicles Subcommittee