

“Chair Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim and members of the House Transportation committee” my name is Matt Lutz and I am the Sheriff of Muskingum County.

Thank you for allowing me to stand before you to give proponent testimony on HB 199, which would bring greater uniformity to traffic laws and safety regulations to the state of Ohio as it concerns UTV’s.

Safety regulations and traffic laws UTV’s, commonly known as “side by sides”, currently vary across counties and townships. This lack of unity is confusing and detrimental not only to those who own and operate those vehicles but also to our ability to properly enforce traffic laws and maintain safety as law enforcement officials. HB 199 seeks to end this by establishing uniform regulations and traffic laws that would span the state of Ohio, all 88 counties and every township.

By adopting HB 199 we are preventing confusion on the part of the citizen by establishing clear guidelines to their responsibilities when owning and operating side by sides. HB 199 would provide clearer guidelines and would also protect the owners from constantly confusing and changing laws when travelling to different counties and townships, leading to operators running less of a risk of traffic violations due to an unknown shift in regulations.

Not only would HB 199 protect the consumer, but it would also help law enforcement officials better enforce traffic laws concerning “side by sides by allowing a clear set of laws to enforce across all jurisdictions. This uniformity would bring an end to the inability to enforce laws and regulations across township and county borders letting those who would violate the laws evade justice in one county because of its legality in a neighboring county.

Thank you again for allowing me to bear testimony in front of the Transportation Committee.