



American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
24025 Honda Pkwy
Marysville, OH 43040

May 19, 2025

The Honorable Bernard Willis
Chair, House Transportation Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, Floor 13
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 199 (Miller, Plummer) Makes changes regarding off-road vehicles: OPPOSE

Dear Chair Willis:

Thank you for the opportunity to express Honda's objection to HB 199. Safety is among the highest priorities for Honda in developing and producing all of our mobility products, including off-road utility terrain vehicles (UTVs). Like others in our industry, Honda believes that allowing these products to be used on public highways throughout the state would jeopardize not only the health and safety of UTV operators and passengers but other road users as well. UTVs are not built or designed for such use, and this bill, if enacted, would send a mixed message to consumers about the safe and appropriate use of these products. As such, Honda joins our trade association, the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association, and respectfully opposes this legislation and asks that you not pass it from committee.

Honda is a leading producer of UTVs and has been producing such products in the United States since 1998, using domestic and global parts and materials; every Honda UTV sold around the world is made in America. The research, design, development, and safety testing for these powersports products occurs right here in Ohio at our R&D center in Raymond, which serves as Honda's global leader for the research and development of UTVs, including our entire North American lineup.

The vast majority of UTVs, including Honda's, lack dozens of critically important safety components that are standard in automobiles and allow them to travel safely on public roadways. Those auto components include lighting, windshields, full doors, airbags, crush proof tops, crash protective crumple zones, and countless other technologies that are standard in every automobile sold in the U.S. to help protect drivers, passengers, and other road users in the event of a collision. Moreover, the tires utilized for UTVs have very low tire pressure, which allows for their use on dirt, sand, gravel, and other types of off-road terrain. When these low-pressure tires are exposed to high speeds on potentially hot asphalt roads, they are at high risk for blowouts, which can cause loss of control, seriously injuring UTV operators, passengers, and other road users.

Moreover, HB 199's proposed changes for the design specifications of these products are inconsistent with the voluntary standards widely adopted by the powersports industry and will negatively impact manufacturers such as Honda by creating a patchwork of requirements state to state.

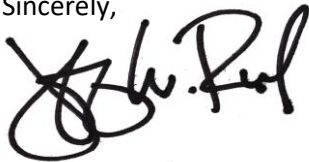
We appreciate the sponsors' interest in safety matters regarding such powersports products, but we must oppose this bill because of the fundamental fact that Honda UTVs are designed, developed,

manufactured, and sold for off-road use only. Passage of this bill will make roads less safe and potentially open manufacturers and dealers up to liability.

Customer safety has always been at the core of Honda's philosophy, and we are proud of our relationship with the State of Ohio, which, in addition to our powersports R&D facility, is home to five auto production plants, a North American Auto Development Center, parts centers, and sizeable administrative operations, representing more than 15,000 associates and a total capital investment of more than \$15 billion. Moreover, our network of 460 independently owned and operated dealers across auto, powersports, and power equipment product lines employ 6,100 people and provide Ohio consumers with a wide range of products that utilize the latest environmental and safety technologies. For more information on Honda's presence in the United States or our safety leadership, please visit www.hondainamerica.com or follow us on X at @HondainAmerica.

If you have any questions, or if Honda can otherwise be a resource for you, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and interest in this important safety issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff W. Reed". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and "R".

Jeff W. Reed
Government & Industry Relations Director, Midwest Region
American Honda Motor Co.
jwreed@na.honda.com

CC: The Honorable Jack K. Daniels
The Honorable Thomas Hall
The Honorable Roy Klopfenstein
The Honorable Jason Stephens
Honorable Members, House Transportation Committee