



May 20, 2025

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

Re: OMA Opposes to HB 199

Dear Chairman Willis:

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide this written testimony in opposition of House Bill 199, which allows off-road vehicles to be used on highways throughout the state.

The OMA was created in 1910 to advocate for Ohio's manufacturers; today, it has nearly 1,300 members. Its mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. Manufacturing is the largest of the state's industry sectors.

In 2023, manufacturing contributed more than \$130 billion to Ohio's economy. In that year, manufacturing accounted for nearly 18% of Ohio's private industry GDP. According to the most recent data, more than 665,000 Ohioans work in manufacturing, and manufacturing has the largest payroll of any Ohio economic sector.

For manufacturers to invest and grow in Ohio – and compete globally – Ohio's regulatory environment must be rational, fair, and predictable. This includes a consistent approach to how the items our members manufacture are subjected to consistent laws across the entire state. Proposals that create multiple standards for product use can increase compliance costs, add additional complexity to the supply chain network and create operational inefficiencies. Varied approaches can also undermine competitiveness and result in an uneven application of the regulatory standards required of our members.

Patchwork regulations—where vehicles that are designed for one purpose but deemed legally suitable for use in other ways —can have significant negative effects on manufacturing. For the aforementioned reasons, the OMA is opposed to HB 199, as written, that allows on-road use of the ATVs and ROVs.

While the OMA appreciates the leadership of the bill sponsor on this issue, we ask that the committee continue to work on the issue with the appropriate stakeholders,

including our members and our association, to address their concerns before approving this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our concerns on this important topic and for your continued support of Ohio's manufacturing industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Lee", with a stylized, cursive script.

James Lee
Managing Director, Public Policy
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association
(614) 557-9661