



# OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## **Ohio Chamber of Commerce Opponent Testimony – House Bill 199 May 20, 2025**

Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee. On behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill 199.

My name is Matt MacLaren, and I'm the Director of Travel and Tourism Policy at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, which represents more than 8,000 businesses across the state. While we support efforts to expand mobility and recreational access, we have serious concerns that HB 199, which proposes changes to allow utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) to operate on public roadways, poses significant safety risks for Ohioans and conflicting design requirements that could increase liability risks for Ohio businesses.

Allowing UTVs to be used on public roads could increase injuries and potentially increase liability for Ohio businesses. Using UTVs, that are designed and manufactured for off-road use, on public roads puts the passengers at an increased risk in the event of a collision because UTVs do not have the safety features designed for on-road vehicles. The vast majority of UTVs lack essential safety features required for on-road vehicles, such as full doors, windshields, airbags, road-ready lighting, and high-pressure tires.

Also, HB 199 would make it difficult for manufacturers and dealers, many of which have major operations in Ohio, to operate efficiently and responsibly. This is because the bill introduces state-specific design changes that conflict with widely adopted industry standards. The increased safety concerns of allowing UTVs on roadways, and the conflicting design changes included in HB 199, could increase liability for UTV manufacturers and dealers.

It is for these reasons that the Ohio Chamber of Commerce is in opposition to H.B. 199.