



*Working together for Ohio farmers to advance
agriculture and strengthen our communities.*

**House Transportation Committee
HB 199 Opponent Testimony
Evan Callicoa, Director of State Policy
May 20, 2025**

Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and other honorable members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit opposition testimony on HB 199. OFBF thoroughly analyzes all legislation in conjunction with the policies approved by our grassroots members to ensure any potential legislation best serves the interests of Ohio agriculture and rural communities.

We are greatly concerned with provisions in the bill that would remove certain exemptions for ATV/UTV registration. Under current law, someone is exempt from registering their ATV/UTV, among other types of vehicles, if they are operating the vehicle exclusively on their property or that which they have a contractual right to. Additionally, an ATV owner qualifies explicitly for an agricultural exemption from registration if the vehicle is primarily used for agricultural purposes *and* the owner qualifies for the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) program. These exemptions recognize the right for landowners to use these vehicles how they see fit on the land they have a right to, and we urge the committee to restore these exemptions should they move forward with this legislation.

Additionally, OFBF is concerned about the equipment requirements established by the bill for UTVs. The bill requires the Department of Public Safety to establish additional safety equipment specifications specifically for UTVs. While we do not necessarily oppose these rules themselves, we are concerned that there is no grandfathering provision to exempt vehicles purchased before the bill's effective date. While many of the referenced equipment items may come standard on new vehicles, many farmers own UTVs that they have used for years and did not come standard when they purchased the vehicle. We are concerned that without a grandfather clause, these farmers would be required to retrofit their vehicles and buy expensive aftermarket parts.

We would like to thank the sponsors for retaining the current law regarding these types of vehicles traveling from one farm field to another on a public highway. This is one of the most common instances of farm ATV/UTV use, as farmers often use these vehicles to scout or apply pesticides to specific areas on their fields, which are often located just across or down the road from each other. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on HB 199.