



## OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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**House Bill 199, All Purpose Vehicles  
House Transportation Committee  
Interested Party Testimony  
May 20, 2025**

Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation committee, my name is Kyle Brooks, and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Ohio Township Association (OTA). On behalf of Ohio's 1,308 townships, thank you for the opportunity to provide written interested party testimony on House Bill 199, which revises the All Purpose Vehicles law.

The OTA appreciates the intent to create uniformity and clear guidelines for owning and operating side by side vehicles in the state of Ohio. The OTA supports the provisions in the bill that establish registration requirements and impose penalties for violations, as these measures promote safety and accountability.

However, there is a provision that the OTA opposes. HB 199 would remove the authority of a township to regulate these vehicles on township roads unless they receive permission from the board of county commissioners.

Townships are responsible for the care and maintenance of township roads, which are funded by township tax dollars, and maintained by township road crews. Township officials, who live in, represent, and serve their communities are the most familiar with local road conditions, community expectations, and public safety needs. No other level of government is better positioned to make informed decisions on township infrastructure.

By mandating a township to seek approval from the board of county commissioners creates unnecessary bureaucracy and undermines local control. Townships are fully capable of determining what is best for their communities. This provision strips the authority of a township to govern the very roads they are elected by residents to care for and maintain. Local discretion would allow a township to make the best decision based on road conditions, safety concerns, and community input.

The OTA respectfully requests the sponsors and the committee to maintain the tradition of local control with our ability to authorize or prohibit all-purpose vehicles, and keep township authority over township roads.

Thank you for considering our position. If you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me or OTA Executive Director Heidi M. Fought at 614-863-0045.

Sincerely,

Kyle A. Brooks  
Director of Governmental Affairs