



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

October 23, 2023

The Honorable Haraz N. Ghanbari
Chair, House Homeland Security Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, Floor 13
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 237 (Miller, Plummer) Makes changes regarding off-road vehicles: OPPOSE

Dear Chair Ghanbari:

Thank you for the opportunity to express Honda's objection to HB 237. Honda strongly shares the serious safety concerns raised by our trade association, the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association, in allowing off-road vehicles to be used on highways throughout the state. The vast majority of ATVs and UTVs, including Honda's, lack dozens of critically important standard safety components found in automobiles that allow them to travel safely on public roadways. Allowing off-road vehicles to operate on public roads without these safety features would not only jeopardize the health and safety of ATV and UTV operators and passengers, but other road users as well. As such, Honda respectfully opposes this legislation and asks that you not pass it from committee.

Honda is a leading producer of ATVs and UTVs, and has been producing such products in the United States since 1998, with the research, development, and safety testing for many of these powersports products occurring at our R&D center in Raymond, Ohio. Safety is a top priority for Honda in the development and production of all our products, including ATVs and UTVs. While these products are quite versatile, they are not intended to be operated on highways. They do not have the same lighting and safety equipment that comes standard on all on-road vehicles, such as windshields, full doors, airbags, crush-proof tops, crash protective crumple zones, and other technologies to protect consumers in the event of a collision.

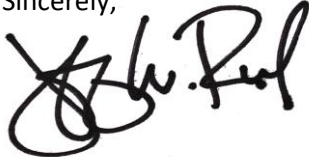
In addition, the U.S Consumer Product Safety Commission has adopted standards that call for a maximum tire pressure of 10 psi on ATVs and UTVs. This is a very low pressure that allows for travel on dirt, sand, gravel, and other types of off-road terrain, but would be inappropriate for use on asphalt roads. Most on-road products such as motorcycles and cars use tire pressures around 30 psi, and applying similar tires to UTVs would actually violate federal safety standards. When low-pressure tires like this have prolonged exposure to hot asphalt, they can blow out, which will immediately cause the vehicle to pull to the left or right, and can seriously injure ATV or UTV operators, passengers, other road users, and pedestrians.

Thank you for your time and interest in this important safety issue. 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 \$14 billion. Moreover, our network of 460 authorized 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 Twitter 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.

Sincerely,

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

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

CC: The Honorable Kevin D. Miller
The Honorable Phil Plummer
Honorable Members, House Homeland Security Committee