



Please Vote YES on HB 16-1030

Local Government Regulation of Off-Highway Vehicles

Sponsors: Reps. Brown and Court/Sen. Donovan

The recreational use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is an important tourism amenity in Colorado. A wide number of our counties – primarily on the Western Slope and in the San Luis Valley - have tourism economies that are dependent upon attracting OHV riders to their communities. Many of these counties have spent years working on programs and designating road networks that attract thousands of riders from across the country each year. The terrain in these counties varies greatly, from the mountainous jeep roads in Southwest Colorado to gentler, more family-friendly terrain in Northwest Colorado.

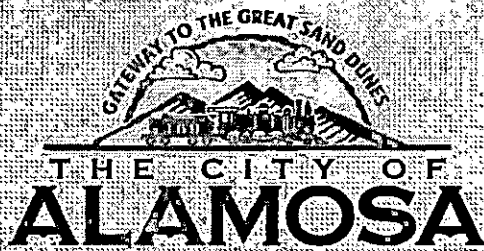
Colorado Counties, Inc. has been engaged in a stakeholder process for the past several years to work on the safe use of OHVs on designated county roads throughout the state. This stakeholder process included county commissioners, county sheriffs, the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition, Colorado State Patrol, the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Children's Hospital, CML, Club 20, AGNC and a number of environmental groups.

HB 1030 clarifies that local governments adopting ordinances to require a driver's license and/or liability insurance for operators on municipal streets or county roads are not in conflict with Division of Parks and Wildlife regulations on OHV use. The bill also allows municipal governments to work with CDOT to establish at-grade crossings of state highways within their jurisdictions and makes clear that agricultural use of OHVs is **exempt** from local government ordinances. The bill is enabling in nature and respects local control and local decision-making regarding safe use of OHVs on our municipal streets and county roads.

CCI asks for your YES vote on HB 16-1030

CCI Contacts:

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Eric Bergman 303.915.2909 // ebergman@ccionline.org



Office of the City Manager
300 Hunt Avenue
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March 17, 2016

Senate Finance Committee
200 E. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Re: House Bill 16-1030

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for your leadership and review of HB 16-1030. I know that you receive multiple opinions on many bills, and therefore I weigh my thoughts based on the impact of this bill to the entire San Luis Valley and other mountain communities in Colorado. If there is any other information that I can provide to you related to this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

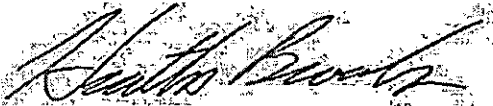
While the City of Alamosa does not see as much visitors as our Valley neighbors related to ATVs, we are in full support of efforts to help improve this segment of tourism. HB 16-1030 will allow for local control crossing of state highways. This is a top priority for many of the Valley municipalities, including South Fork, Del Norte, Monte Vista, and Creede. Many of these communities are prime locations for ATV tourism. When access to trails require loading an ATV on a trailer to cross a state highway that also function as communities low-speed main streets to get to the other end of the trail, this turns tourists off from visiting. As many of you know, tourism for smaller communities is a vital part of our revenue and helps economic recovery.

Many of these communities have already passed ordinances allowing ATVs to use town roads and streets to safely get to trails on public land. This legislation is critical to amending the State Statute due to last year's bill passing that placed an exception to not allow crossing state highways in municipalities. Changing this law would prove tourism growth. The Town of South Fork has shared with us that they have already seen an impact on their ATV tourism due to this limitation.

ATV excursions are popular throughout the whole year for these communities and without change brought by HB 16-1030 many municipalities will face slower economic growth. It is very important to become more ATV friendly. This legislation is part of a handful of bills that also support a larger, intergovernmental effort to connect communities and counties throughout the San Luis Valley for ATVs and become a destination for this type of activity.

Again, thank you for your leadership and review of the City's support on HB 16-1030

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heather Brooks".

Heather Brooks
City Manager

SOUTH FORK

COLORADO

March 16, 2016

Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol Building
200 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

RE: House Bill 16-1030

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee;

On behalf of the Town of South Fork, thank you for your consideration of HB16-1030. This bill is very important to the Town of South Fork, the businesses and visitors to our community. South Fork's economy is dependent upon tourists and we are still in the recovery mode from the economic downturn and the West Fork Complex fire. Many of those tourists who make Colorado and South Fork their vacation destination or come back to town to enjoy the many outdoor recreational opportunities ask if we are "ATV Friendly". We are still unable to say yes with any certainty and our businesses have communicated that they are losing long time returning visitors, new visitors and group bookings due to this.

Recreation centered on OHV/ATVs is becoming increasingly popular and the Town of South Fork has a multitude of ATV trails accessible on public lands adjacent to the town. As this activity has become popular, the requests to be able to ATV from various lodging points to the ATV trail without trailering ATVs have increased. In response to this, the Town of South Fork passed an ordinance in mid-2015 to address this issue. Contained within the ordinance was language similar to that contained with HB16-1030. The town ordinance is not fully in effect due to Rio Grande County not having regulations in place to allow ATV travel on county roads.

While the Town of South Fork and Rio Grande County have worked closely on this issue, the county has desired to see the language in HB16-1030 passed before moving forward on allowing ATVs to travel from South Fork to ATV trails on county roads. Prior to the adoption of the town ATV ordinance, Town leadership met with various stakeholders, including Rio Grande County Commissioners and Sheriff's office; and local representatives from CDOT, CSP and DPW. The Town's ordinance was modified based on their input to include additional requirements to increase the safety of travel from South Fork to trails using town roads and streets.

Town of South Fork
P.O. Box 369 :: South Fork, CO 81154
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Passage of HB16-1030 is one of the last pieces of the puzzle before the Town of South Fork can say we are "ATV Friendly". The earlier passage of SB16-008 has allowed us to work with CDOT to continue the process of defining travel routes and crossings for ATV travel.

The Town of South Fork asks for your support in growing our tourism based economy and thanks the members of the Finance Committee for your hard work and continued leadership. If you should need additional information or have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Acre".

Tom Acre
Town Manager



COLORADO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 1 - John Justman 970-244-1605
District 2 - Scott McInnis 970-244-1604
District 3 - Rose Pugliese 970-244-1606

P.O. Box 20,000 544 Road Avenue Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5010 mcbocc@mesacounty.us Fax (970) 244-1639

March 7, 2016

Senate Local Government Committee
200 East Colfax
Denver, CO 802003

Re: Letter of Support concerning HB16-1030

Dear Senate Local Government Committee Members:

The Mesa County Commissioners would like to express our strong support on House Bill 16-1030, which enables local governments to make decisions regarding the safe use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs).

Mesa County, located in scenic western Colorado, is home to premier off-highway vehicle trails and routes and is home to one of the largest all-terrain vehicle (ATV) organizations on the Western Slope.

Over the last several years, the Mesa County Commissioners have worked diligently to ensure that we continue to support public resources in our community for continued improvements while balancing safety and community priorities.

The proposed bill clarifies that local governments adopting ordinances to require a driver's license and/or liability insurance for OHV drivers on municipal streets or county roads are not in conflict with the Division of Parks and Wildlife regulations on OHV use. Additionally, it allows municipal governments to work with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to establish at-grade crossing of state highways within their jurisdiction and explains that agricultural use of OHVs is exempt from local government ordinances.

We strongly urge you to support this legislative measure to further improve Mesa County's distressed economy by allowing local government control regarding the safe use of OHVs, which further attracts tourism and recreational OHV and ATV enthusiasts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rose Pugliese, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

John Justman
Commissioner

Scott McInnis
Commissioner

cc: Colorado Representative Dan Thurlow
Colorado Representative Yeulin Willett
Senator Ray Scott

Karla L. Shriver
Rio Grande County Commissioner
925 6th Street, Room 207
Del Norte, CO 81132
719-657-4217 (office)
719-850-5808 (cell)
kshriver@riograndecounty.org

To: Senate Local Government Committee

From: Karla L. Shriver
Rio Grande County Commissioner

Re: HB 16-1030

Date: March 7, 2016

Rio Grande County Commissioners hereby support the passage of HB 16-1030. Rio Grande County is located in the San Luis Valley. It is an area that is currently looking at broadening our economy base to include OHV use as a recreation amenity. We are trying to diversify our economy reliance from one that is predominantly agriculture, to one that also includes recreation and tourism. The commissioners understand that recreation and tourism together can be a strong, viable economic engine if done safely. Rio Grande County is considering an OHV ordinance, but is waiting to work in conjunction with the State to make sure our ordinance does not conflict with State Statute.

Rio Grande County Commissioners are in favor only if we have the ability to require certain measures to address the safety issues that our area feels is important for us which this bill addresses. We are also extremely pleased to see the issue being addressed to allow municipal governments the ability to work with CDOT to establish at-grade crossings of state highways within their jurisdictions. That is a local issue and should remain so.

This bill is definitely needed to clarify the issues currently experienced in our statutory system for local control.

On behalf of the Rio Grande County Commissioners, I respectfully ask that the Committee favorably pass HB 16-1030.

Hinsdale County
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Colorado State Senate Local Government Committee
Vicki Marble, Chair
Larry Crowder, Vice-Chair

March 7, 2016

Dear Senator Marble and members of the Senate Local Government Committee:

Hinsdale County strongly supports HB-1030 and respectfully requests your approval of the bill. We believe this bill will give counties, including Hinsdale, the necessary local control to better provide for the safety of those operating OHV's in our community.

With a heritage tourism-based economy and 96.5% public land, Hinsdale County benefits greatly from the OHV operators that come to our community. Hinsdale County is also home to the Alpine Loop, a primitive, back-country road over Cinnamon and Engineer Passes that sees hundreds of thousands of vehicles per year. Many folks who would not otherwise be able to physically access our beautiful country are able to do so utilizing an OHV.

While we recognize the benefits of OHV's, we also know that there can be safety concerns. The terrain in Hinsdale County is rugged, steep and primitive. In addition, many large vehicles access our roads. In our County, we would like to have the ability to require a driver's license and insurance for operators on our roads, without being in conflict with State law. However, we don't want to undermine efforts by other counties that have designed and built trails systems in keeping with younger operators. We would like to see counties free to enact appropriate ordinances for their circumstances. HB16-1030 provides these options.

HB16-1030 clarifies that county governments adopting ordinances to require a driver's license and/or liability insurance for operators on our county roads are not in conflict with Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife regulations on OHV use. (The bill also allows municipal governments to work with CDOT to establish at-grade crossings of state highways within their jurisdictions). This bill makes clear that agricultural use of OHVs is exempt from local government ordinances. The bill is enabling in nature and respects local control and local decision-making regarding safe use of OHVs on our county roads.

The Hinsdale County Board of Commissioners believes that HB16-1030 will benefit our community and the communities around Colorado. We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,
Hinsdale Board of County Commissioners

By: 
Cindy Dozier, Chair



RIO BLANCO COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY ADMIN BUILDING, 200 MAIN
P.O. BOX I
MEEKER, COLORADO 81641
970-878-9430

March 7, 2016

Colorado Senate
c/o Local Government Committee
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Dear members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

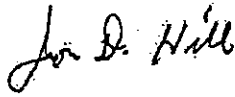
On behalf of Rio Blanco County, Colorado, we would like to express our strong support of HB 16-1030. This legislation, pertaining to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) travel is greatly important to our County and Northwestern Colorado. As you are aware, Rio Blanco County is home to the Wagon Wheel OHV Trail System, a comprehensive interconnecting trail system that offers a terrific positive economic impact to our rural communities. With over 75% of Rio Blanco County being federally managed lands, being able to utilize these lands to benefit the local communities and help support small businesses is of paramount concern.

We applaud legislative efforts that have produced a bill respecting local control and allows local decision makers to decide whether OHV travel will be allowed in their jurisdiction. Rio Blanco County can serve as an example of responsibly allowing OHV travel, while balancing environmental, economic and safety concerns.

Rio Blanco County is in favor of the proposed HB 16-1030, and we encourage you to pass this legislative action. If you have any questions regarding our OHV program, or want to understand the importance of this issue in Northwest Colorado, please email us at bocc@rbc.us.

Sincerely,
Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County


Shawn Bolton, Chairman


Jon D. Hill


Jeff Eskelson