



## 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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## 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 Rood 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 80203

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  
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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.

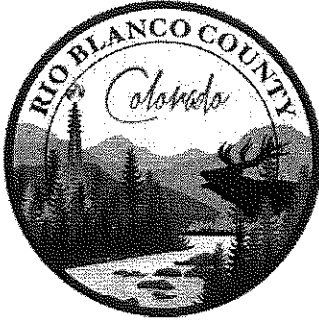
While we recognize the benefits of OHV's, we also know that there can be safety concerns. The terrain in Hinsdale County is rugged, steep and primitive. In addition, many large vehicles access our roads. In our County, we would like to have the ability to require a driver's license and insurance for 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  
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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](mailto:bocc@rbc.us).

Sincerely,  
Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County

A stylized signature of Shawn Bolton, consisting of a few sharp, sweeping lines.

Shawn Bolton, Chairman

A handwritten signature of Jon D. Hill in cursive.

Jon D. Hill

A handwritten signature of Jeff Eskelson in cursive.

Jeff Eskelson