



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Ben Allen
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 249 – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we must regretfully express our opposition to your Senate Bill 249 relating to off-highway motor vehicle recreation.

RCRC is an association of thirty-five rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties. RCRC's member counties cover approximately half of California's total 100 million acre land mass. RCRC represents local governments that have land use and public trust responsibilities over much of this rich landscape that benefits all of California.

Under existing law the Division of Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation is required to develop and implement a grant and cooperative agreement program with other agencies funded from no more than one-half of the revenues in the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund, with specified percentages of these revenues to be available, upon appropriation, for various purposes related to off-highway vehicles. Existing law also requires the remaining revenues in the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund to be available for the support of the division and for the planning, acquisition, development, construction, maintenance, administration, operation, restoration, and conservation of lands in state vehicular recreation areas and certain other areas. SB 249 would recast significant provisions of this act.

RCRC supported Senate Bill 742 (Steinberg), the 2007 measure which established the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program in its current form. SB 742 designed the OHV Program to provide a venue for people to legally enjoy recreational vehicles while also assisting the local economy in many parts of rural California. The OHV Program generates approximately \$20 billion annually for the California economy

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and also provides important partnerships with county sheriffs to provide law enforcement and safety services in areas with high recreational vehicle use.

The current OHV Program also helps preserve the State's natural resources by working with local resource conservation districts and other organizations on restoration efforts, as well as partnering with federal land managers to help ensure sustainable OHV recreation on those public lands. SB 249 would undo many of the beneficial provisions established by SB 742 and could ultimately have significant impacts on the OHV Program, rural economies, and the natural resources the Program helps preserve.

For the reasons stated, RCRC must respectfully oppose your SB 249. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton", written over a light grey circular stamp or watermark.

STACI HEATON
Regulatory Advocate

cc: Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee