

***Testimony in Support of: LD 1439 "An Act To Clarify All-terrain Vehicle Registration Requirements and Establish Regular Maintenance of Designated State-approved All-terrain Vehicle Trails"***

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April 21, 2021

Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. My name is Ronnie Green and I reside in the town of Plymouth. I am also the President of the Endless Season Riders ATV Club here in Plymouth.

I am here today to speak in support of LD 1439. Let me start by saying that I strongly support the rights of every landowner big or small to have the final say of what happens on their property and to set the rules for the use of their property, I would also like to thank them all for sharing their land with us.

While I generally support this bill in its entirety I want to focus on the "Oversized ATV" portion. On the width issue I have been saying for years that the manufacturers need to STOP making these machines wider. I was probably one of the first in the state to start riding side by sides when I bought my first Ranger in 2007, we dealt with narrow bridges we couldn't cross and spent a lot of weekends helping build bridges to accommodate these wider machines that were gaining popularity fast. I have owned four since then and the footprint has remained the same. What has concerned me the most is that some brands and models have increased in width to make them more stable due to their speed ability.

The weight issue is where I see a problem that I hope we can address. Since the Task Force started their work, the machines have evolved even further. People have purchased and registered machines that are in excess of 2000 lbs. These people bought these machines with all good intentions and with no idea this law was coming. The dealers did not stop selling them and in most cases probably did not notify the buyers. If this law passes as written, these people will never be able to sell or trade these machines because NO-ONE will be able to ever register them again. I believe a simple amendment to grandfather the machine (as long as it has been registered in Maine) and not just the current owner would be fair. I myself traded machines last year and luckily for me mine barely squeaks in under the proposed "Oversize" rule. According to the manufacturer it weighs 1930 lbs. and is 65 inches wide. Several of my friends and several of the members I represent own Polaris Rangers, some of them are Ranger Crew's that can accommodate 4 -6 riders. Some people have added doors, windows, windshields, wipers, and heat for comfort as well as safety. Some have purchased a very similar machine that is already outfitted with those accessories and because they rolled out of the factory equipped, they are considered "Oversized" because they exceed 2000 lbs. I have included links to the machine specs I just referenced in my written testimony.

I do believe that the evolution of these machines continues to bring new riders into the sport. When the side by sides came along, I saw more older people start riding and some that had issues with bad backs, shoulders, etc. were able to get back into the sport. And as they started enclosing them and adding creature comforts like heat people were able to take along family more safely and more comfortably. Now with Polaris and Can-Am putting air conditioning in them is a game changer again. I myself bought one (mostly because that is what the dealer had and I didn't want to wait all summer to order one). We found that as dry and dusty as it was last summer, we rode on days that we probably would otherwise not have simply because we could roll up the windows and be able to breathe. One member bought the Ranger Crew Ultimate edition so that he could take his elderly parents out and they could breathe. I would suggest amending the bill and increasing the weight to 2500 lbs. in order to cover these family friendly machines.

Again, I want to go on the record of supporting the landowners and their right to set the rules. I also feel there are trails out there that could easily accommodate the oversize machines that are on the market today and that people have purchased with good intent. Just look at the several of miles of state-owned rail trails that were built for locomotives and the trails with bridges that sustain the weight of groomers in the winter. I hope we can find a way to accommodate all and I am more than willing to help any way I can.

Thank You for your time and I will be happy to answer any questions.

*Ronnie Green*

My Ranger: <https://www.chandlerfarms.com/new-models/2020-polaris-industries-ranger-xp-1000-northstar-ultimate-matte-sage-green-27939979b>  
1930 lbs. 65 inches **which just barely makes the cut not to be considered "oversize"**.

Base Model Ranger Crew: <https://www.chandlerfarms.com/new-models/2021-polaris-industries-ranger-crew-xp-1000-premium-matte-navy-28122740b>  
1929 lbs. 62.5 inches **which would NOT be considered "oversized"**

Ultimate Ranger Crew: <https://www.chandlerfarms.com/new-models/2021-polaris-industries-ranger-crew-xp-1000-northstar-edition-ultimate-ma-28122743b>  
2371 lbs. 65 inches **which is the same machine as above but comes from the factory with the accessories included.**