

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review
Children, Youth, and Families
Program Open Space and Agricultural
Land Preservation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Senate Bill 480 – Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Recreation Oversight Board - Establishment

February 12, 2026

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 480 establishes a clear and practical framework for stakeholder input into Maryland's off-highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) programs by creating the Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Recreation Oversight Board. By bringing together representatives of riders, dealers, and organized recreation groups, the bill ensures that those who actively use and support OHRV trails have a formal role in advising the Department of Natural Resources on trail operations, acquisition, and regulation. This structured advisory approach promotes transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making while preserving the Department's authority to manage public lands responsibly.

Importantly, SB 480 strengthens collaboration without creating new regulatory burdens or costs, as the Board serves in an advisory capacity and is supported by existing Department staff and resources. Regular quarterly meetings and geographically informed input will help ensure that Maryland's OHRV trail system is safe, sustainable, and responsive to local needs. By formalizing stakeholder engagement, this legislation supports outdoor recreation, responsible land stewardship, and economic activity tied to motorsports tourism across the State.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike McKay", written in a cursive style.

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties