

In favor of HB1143,

I am submitting testimony today in favor of HB1143. For years Marylanders have been traveling to more OHV friendly states for recreation until now. Many of those states have existing statutes in line with what HB1143 is proposing to do. HB 1143 is critical to ensure OHV users at Saint John's Rock ORV trail, Burkholder road ORV trail, and Wolf Den Run State Park do not run afoul of the law on accident. The original Bill that HB1143 is amending, was designed to allow OHV users traverse between trails and farms up to two miles with certain OHV type restrictions. The modifications in HB 1143 help bring that law more in line with the end user demographics and user requirements.

Raising the on road limit from 2 to 5 miles will eliminate the need for riders to pull over and re-enter the road between trail heads or heading into town. A rule easily forgotten and over looked. Also, adding Off-highway motorcycles will reduce confusion as to why some OHV users can ride on the road, while others cannot.

These changes will help create a more OHV friendly environment, benefiting park users, and the adjoining towns whose businesses are help supported by the park's guests.

Thanks,

James Ratino  
President of the Maryland Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance