



March 22, 2017

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1077 (O'Donnell) Support

Dear Chairman Garcia and Committee Members:

As a member of the bipartisan stakeholder group that helped draft SB 742 (Steinberg) in 2007 upon which the current OHV program is based, I urge your committee to support AB 1077.

The current program has been heralded as the national gold standard in environmentally sound OHV recreation. It provides high-quality sustainable recreation to nearly six million OHV enthusiasts.

The program contributes almost \$20 billion dollars to the California economy and has become an important economic force multiplier in rural areas of the state.

Besides providing for trail related management activities, the program partners with county sheriffs to provide important law enforcement/safety services and supports substantive environmental restoration projects working with local resource conservation districts and other stakeholder groups.

Since 80% of OHV recreation occurs on federal lands, the program also partners with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to provide sustainable OHV recreation on public lands under their jurisdiction.

It is my belief that AB 1077 honors the collaborative work in SB 742 that has created a holistic nationally recognized OHV program with diverse and important partnerships that support managed OHV recreation in California. AB 1077 would continue to benefit OHV recreationists, small businesses, county and federal partners, non-profit conservation groups, rural economies, and protect our natural resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Don

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