



March 1, 2017

Honorable Robert M. Hertzberg, Chair  
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
California State Capitol, Room 4038  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 249 (Allen) Oppose

Dear Chairman Hertzberg 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 oppose SB 249.

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 SB 249 would have a devastating impact on managed OHV recreation in California. The affected parties include; OHV recreationists, small businesses, county and federal partners, rural economies, and our natural resources.

Respectfully submitted,

*Don*

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