



# ANDRÉ JACQUE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-9870  
Fax: (608) 282-3602  
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0002  
Rep.Jacque@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708-8952

TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Transportation  
FROM: Rep. André Jacque  
DATE: August 29, 2017  
RE: Assembly Bill 442

Chairman Ripp and members of the Assembly Committee on Transportation,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on Assembly Bill 442, commonsense legislation that would clarify Wis. Stat. § 23.33(8) regarding the signing of ATV routes.

Under current law, municipalities that designate a highway as an ATV route must install signs to alert ATV users of the route. However, state statutes do not specify the frequency of the signs.

Assembly Bill 442 provides clarity by creating two separate methods of signing ATV routes:

1. If a municipality has designated all highways as ATV routes, it could satisfy the signing requirement by posting signs at the entrance of all highways leading into the town.
2. If the municipality has designated only certain highways as ATV routes, then the municipality would be required to sign any entrances to that designated route.

Several towns have contacted me to request this change to provide uniformity and clear direction to state statutes, as the law is currently open to widely varying interpretation, to the extent that two similar towns could differ in the number of signs directed by the DNR from more than 400 versus roughly 40 signs.

In one example, the town of Holland in Brown County was told to install a sign every half-mile even though all roads are open to ATVs. The town of Humboldt in Brown County has informed me of the same situation in their town. In other areas, municipalities are given much more discretion for the frequency of sign placement. This statutory change would provide guidance to ATV users and municipalities alike, as both would have certain expectations of where to expect the placement of ATV route signs. Town board members from Franklin and Morrison in my district and numerous other local officials outside of it have contacted me in support of this legislation, as they are interested in opening town roads to ATVs and UTVs and the present local interpretation directly inhibits their desire to do so.

I am also working with the Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association on an amendment within the scope of the bill that would give municipalities greater flexibility in establishing preferred routes and signing them appropriately.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Assembly Bill 442.

Wisconsin ATV / UTV Association  
1539 N. 33<sup>rd</sup> Place, Suite A  
Sheboygan, WI 53081

To: Committee on Transportation  
Re: Assembly Bill 442 Relating to All-Terrain Vehicle Route Signage

Members of the Committee,

The ATV and UTV program in Wisconsin continues to grow at an astonishing rate. With this growth, local communities throughout Wisconsin are finding the economic benefit of allowing ATV's and UTV's access to their local road systems. This access is not only vital to support our nearly 2,000 miles of off-road trails by connecting them together, but also to serve the needs of local citizens who enjoy the sport for local access purposes.

Throughout 2017 the Wisconsin ATV / UTV Association held meetings with our partners to seek opinions of how the route systems are shaping the future of our sport. During these meetings, the topic of route signage was always a key focal point of many discussions.

ATV routes have served as the vital connections between off-road trail systems for many years. As route systems began to grow, so did the need to properly sign them in hopes of providing proper navigational aids. This system worked well when it was a few open routes within a community. However, when many of the roads were opened within a community, the navigation aids were not effective for navigating to another trail or service, which was the original intent of a road route.

Our organization submitted recommended changes to AB 442 which addressed this issue with the creation of preferred routes. Preferred routes help users of our sport by providing navigational aids in communities where all or most roads are open to other off-road trails or services supporting the sport, such as a gas station or restaurant.

We support the bill purpose of only signing the entrance point to communities in which all roads are opened for access. Wisconsin ATV / UTV Association discussed at length with our law enforcement agency partners about also including prohibited ATV use signs on the exit points and highways which do not allow ATV traffic. This provision is important to prevent riders from traveling on restricted areas which can quickly become a major law enforcement issue.

The Wisconsin ATV / UTV Association supports AB 442 if our suggested provisions are included in the bill. These changes were submitted for review and we encourage them to be included in the proposed law changes.



Randy Harden

President

Wisconsin ATV / UTV Association

Robert McConnell

Vice President

Wisconsin ATV / UTV Association

