

EXHIBIT § 7  
DATE 2-18-05  
HB 651



P.O. Box 2884 Great Falls, MT 59403  
Monday, February 14, 2005

House Transportation Committee  
Representative Scott Mendenhall, Chair

Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association respectfully asks each of you vote NO on HB 651.

MTVRA has played an integral part in the development and implementation of Montana's OHV Safety Ed. Program and has actively participated in educating users about ethics, trail etiquette and safety. HB 651 is not only detrimental to highway safety, but will also increase safety concerns.

Riding in barrow ditches is certainly not an answer to safety concerns. With multiple obstacles in the ditches that would force riders to the road and visibility issues from dust—this bill only exacerbates the problem.

As you can see, safety does matter to our organization. By current law, OHVs are already required to be licensed and street legal to use certain forest development roads, highways and any "publicly maintained way open to use of vehicular travel". MTVRA has been totally supportive of any bill that encourages safety education without compromising current law and our ability to ride on "publicly maintained ways" with street legal machines & appropriate licensing.

On behalf of hundreds of MTVRA members statewide, I strongly urge you to vote no on HB 651.

MTVRA has a strong record of supporting bills that promote and encourage OHV safety.  
This bill does neither.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns,

*Joyce Thompson*  
*President, MTVRA*