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Concerned Montana Citizens for Snowmobiling and ATV Safety

I represent concerned citizens who are proponents of Snowmobiling and ATV safety. We must support recreational driving safety classes for citizens who do not have a current driver's license.

Citizens are interested in driving recreational vehicles and may not want to take the time to be properly educated on the usage and safety of the machines and/or vehicles they wish to use.

However, it is important for all snowmobiling and ATV drivers to be educated in how to operate their machines properly and in a safe manner. In Montana in 2006 there were 20 deaths caused by ATV accidents alone. Most states have a law restricting teens under 16 from driving snowmobiles and ATVs with out the proper education. If a person has a certified driver's license it shows they have knowledge to properly operate a car. Persons with divers licenses **do not** need to take the class to be able to legally drive ATVs and snowmobiles.

- Nation wide 2003 there were 125,500 riders or passengers that went to the emergency room due to an ATV accident. 38,600 of them were under the age of 16.
- Nation wide in 2006: 555 citizens died from ATV accidents (1 in ever 5 of these deaths were children). 146,600 more were injured.
- Montana terrain is rugged and even more dangerous for ATVs and Snowmobiles.
- Some of Montana's nature is protected by national parks; however it is important for citizens and visitors to properly use their recreational vehicles to help preserve land not protected by national parks. Education on these vehicles would help them learn to properly use the land.
- These classes will teach riders to safely use their vehicles and hopefully lessen the number of accidents and deaths.

As shown by the entries above in the list, ATV and snowmobile education would greatly influence citizens to use their vehicles safely and help try to preserve the land they are on.

I will support legislation that forces education to people with out a driver's license on how to operate snowmobiles and ATVs correctly and safely.

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