



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## RITCHIE, ATV DEALERS JOIN FORCES TO LIFT BAN ON 'SIDE-BY-SIDE' FOUR WHEELERS

PATTY RITCHIE May 9, 2016



Nearly two dozen ATV dealers from across the state fanned out across the Capitol on Monday in an effort to convince the State Assembly to lift the ban on side-by-side ATV's, and embrace Senator Ritchie's proposed legislation creating a statewide recreational trail system for four wheel enthusiasts.

Dealers from Western and Central New York, to the Mohawk and Hudson Valleys, Adirondacks and North Country were to meet with Assembly members and ask their

support for lifting the ban, which prevents New Yorkers from legally registering and using the most popular versions of outdoor sports vehicles.

Forty-nine states already allow the use of side-by-sides, and New York is the only state that won't permit them to be registered and operated legally.

"Every day, these small business men and women are listening to their customers' frustration with New York's outdated ATV rules that prevent us from using some of the most popular ATV models on the market," Senator Ritchie said.

"They know that lifting the ban is not only good for their local businesses, but also good for the tens of thousands of New Yorkers who enjoy four-wheeling and exploring the outdoors with family and friends."

Senator Ritchie's bill (S.5821-A) would allow the use of side-by-side ATVs and also create a new statewide trail system that utilizes ATV registration fees to plan and build a network of approved trails.

The bill is seen as a way to create new riding opportunities, boost local tourism and promote safe, responsible ATV use that allows riders to enjoy the outdoors while also protecting the state's natural environment.

Similar trail systems in states like Minnesota, Wisconsin, Maine and Pennsylvania have helped generate millions of dollars for local economies, and also increase revenues from ATV registrations for state and local governments.