



**Testimony of Tom Umphress
Vice Chair, Board of Directors
American Motorcyclist Association**

**Subcommittee on Public Lands
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives**

H.R. 4386, to clarify entrance privileges with respect to the America the Beautiful Pass

September 18, 2025

Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Chairman Tiffany, Ranking Member Neguse, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to testify today in support of H.R. 4386 and on behalf of motorcyclists across the United States.

Bio and Background

My name is Tom Umphress, and I serve as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) where I also chair the Rights and Advocacy Committee, and I am proud to represent over 215,000 AMA members nationwide. In addition, I serve as Government Relations Officer for the Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association, AMA District 23 in Minnesota.

Founded in 1924, the AMA is the largest national organization representing motorcyclists in North America. The AMA is dedicated to protecting motorcyclists' rights, promoting the motorcycle lifestyle, and supporting responsible use of public lands. Our members have a proud history of volunteer work, trail maintenance, and stewardship of National Parks and other public recreation areas.

Today, there are nearly 9 million motorcyclists on the road in America, double the number of riders from 20 years ago. Motorcycling is a fundamental part of our culture, symbolizing independence, self-reliance, and the spirit of American freedom.

Economic and Cultural Contributions

Motorcycling is a major contributor to local and regional economies. The motorcycle and powersports industry generate an estimated \$50.9 billion in economic impact. Rider tourism supports small businesses through road trips, competitive racing, and participation in national events. Gatherings such as Sturgis in South Dakota, the Northwoods Rally in Wisconsin, and the Four Corners Rally in Colorado attract tens of thousands of riders each year and generate hundreds of millions for the local communities. These events and other scenic motorcycle routes like Backcountry Discovery Routes (BDR), bring motorcyclists through rural towns and public land.

Access to National Parks and Public Lands

National Parks and other federal public lands are some of the most desirable destinations for riders. These areas provide the backdrop for unmatched scenic riding and many times, once in a lifetime trips. Congress and federal agencies should encourage access to these areas and provide a uniform standard for admittance.

Unfortunately, a recent policy change has created confusion and frustration among the motorcycling community. In 2024, the Department of the Interior announced that the America the Beautiful Annual Pass will move to a single signature line, eliminating the option for two motorcyclists to share a pass. While the pass still allows admission for a driver and up to three passengers in a car, four bicyclists, and four pedestrians, it now only admits one motorcycle with up to two riders. This change penalizes motorcyclists traveling together on separate motorcycles, requiring each to purchase an annual pass.

- **Private vehicles:** Pass admits the owner and all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per-vehicle fee areas; and the pass owner plus up to three additional adults, not to exceed four adults, where per-person fees are charged.
- **Bicycles:** In many locations, the pass holder and up to three other bicycles can enter for free.
- **Pedestrians:** Where applicable, one pass admits four pedestrians.
- **Motorcycles:** Pass admits only one motorcycle with the pass owner and one passenger.

This disparity places an unnecessary burden on motorcyclists who travel together and support our public lands. Further, this discourages riders who travel responsibly from visiting and fails to provide parity among visitors based on mode of transportation.

Beyond fairness, this bill also supports the broader goals of modernizing and improving access to America's public lands. Motorcycles are fuel-efficient, space-saving, and environmentally friendly vehicles that align well with the stewardship goals of federal land managers. They also provide a unique way to experience federal lands. Unlike a passenger car, a motorcycle allows

riders to be immersed in the environment, with better views, unobstructed sights, and a more direct connection to the landscapes, sounds, and experiences that make our federal lands so special. In this way, motorcycling is not only efficient but also one of the best ways to see and enjoy the amazing federal lands and recreation areas.

As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, we should ensure that the America the Beautiful Pass lives up to its name by truly welcoming all forms of travel that allow citizens to enjoy our parks, forests, and recreation areas. This bill helps us celebrate that milestone by expanding opportunity and impartiality for the millions of Americans who choose to experience the outdoors from the seat of a motorcycle.

Legislative Solution

H.R. 4386 will address this issue by restoring reasonable access for motorcyclists without overturning the policy change enacted by the Department of Interior. This legislation provides a simple solution by updating guidance from the Secretary to parks and local staff to allow two motorcycles, per pass. By explicitly allowing one additional motorcycle, including its passengers, to enter with a passholder, H.R. 4386 restores vehicle access parity for motorcyclists. It recognizes that two riders on motorcycles should have the same access as a couple in a car or a small group of bicyclists.

Conclusion

The benefits of this legislation extend beyond recreation to local towns and communities, promoting sustainable outdoor recreation, and responsible stewardship. As we look ahead to the America 250 celebration, we should work together to expand opportunities for motorcyclists and highlight our nation's beautiful landscapes.

Motorcycling is a vital part of American cultural, an important contributor to tourism and recreation. By passing H.R. 4386, Congress can ensure that motorcyclists continue to have reasonable and reasonable access on-road and off-highway.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to your questions.