



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 2044**

AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLES; RELATING TO AUTOCYCLES.

Senate Committee on Transportation

**Whitney Damron
Whitney B. Damron, P.A.
On behalf of Polaris Industries**

March 11, 2015

Good morning Chairman Petersen and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation. I appear before you today on behalf of Polaris Industries in support of HB 2044 creating a class of vehicle called an "autocycle".

Late in 2015 I was retained by Polaris Industries to seek changes to several off-road vehicle definitions, which this Committee will recall in the form of SB 73. At that time, the Division of Motor Vehicles inquired with me about the Polaris Slingshot product and how it might (or might not) fit into current motor vehicle definitions. This same discussion has been held in a number of other states which have taken various statutory and regulatory measures to accommodate appropriate licensing standards for these kinds of products. It was during this time I became aware of HB 2044 by Representative Travis Couture-Lovelady.

After meetings, statehouse discussions and e-mail exchanges with Representative Couture-Lovelady, DMV and the Kansas Highway Patrol, it appeared the most expedient route to resolving this matter for the Slingshot and similar vehicles in our state was to amend HB 2044 in two places by removing the word "enclosed" which would then bring the Slingshot under the new autocycle definition.

By way of information, the Slingshot is federally certified as a three-wheel motorcycle, though it has similar characteristics to both passenger vehicles and motorcycles. This has led Polaris, and manufacturers of similar vehicles, to seek updates to state motor vehicle definitions across the country where existing statutes do not currently provide for this new vehicle category. A picture of a Polaris Slingshot is attached to my testimony.

The House Transportation Committee accepted our amendment and the bill advanced to the floor, where it was approved on a vote of 123-0. The bill has no fiscal note.

Assuming for a moment this legislation is approved, an autocycle will not be regulated as a motorcycle in regard to qualifications for licensure and helmet laws. An operator will not be required to obtain a motorcycle certification to operate an autocycle, including a Slingshot nor will they be able to utilize these products to qualify for a motorcycle license.

These kinds of products are not unique to Polaris Industries and the definition is not inclusive of only the Slingshot.

On behalf of Polaris Industries, I thank you for your consideration of our position in support of HB 2044 and would be pleased to stand for questions.

WBD

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By way of information, Polaris Industries, Inc., is headquartered just outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota in Medina. The company has manufacturing plants in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and South Dakota. Polaris Industries designs, manufactures and markets innovative, high-quality, high-performance motorized products for recreation, utility and agriculture use. Products manufactured by Polaris Industries include ATV and off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, motorcycles and the Polaris Slingshot.



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