

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Saylor,

First, and most importantly, we would like to express our deep condolences to you for your loss as well as express our sincere gratefulness to you for your willingness to help others in our state. We are respectfully writing you this letter to inform you of how Chandler's Law, which was put into SC law in 2011, is being administered under instruction from Director Alvin Taylor with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. As officers, we were very glad something was finally being put into law to help us make ATV riding a safe and responsible recreation for all our citizens. Unfortunately, it also means enforcing the law with those that have no regard for the safety of others or the law itself. After this law was put into effect under Title 50 of the Code of Laws, we all rightfully assumed that as officers of the state, we could educate the public and enforce ATV riding laws to control unsafe operations of this vehicle. We started immediately educating the public and controlling reckless riding of ATV's by issuing warnings to the ones that just needed to be educated with the law and issuing summons to the ones that knew the law, but refused to abide by the laws. As you know, this law was not put into place to harass anyone, but to protect everyone. Within a few months of the passing of Chandler's Law, Director Taylor, who was Colonel of Law Enforcement at the time, sent word down his chain of command to all the officers in the field that this law was a poorly written law and no officers with DNR would be allowed to enforce it. As you can imagine, it's very hard as an SCDNR officer who is trained to protect our natural resources, human life being the greatest of all, to watch ATVs being driven recklessly alongside the highways and across private property and all we are basically authorized to do is turn a blind eye to it. We were given permission, if applicable, to issue trespassing charges for driving across someone else's property. However, all we hear is the question of why we aren't doing more to stop the ever growing problem of dangerous ATV use. Proof of this can be found in the statistics of how many warnings or summons that have been issued under Chandler's law and the number of convictions. You will see that we are not enforcing this law as ordered by the governor and if a summons is written under this law and 'Columbia' is made aware, it will be immediately found not guilty. We have asked our supervisors numerous times to please let us be allowed to begin enforcing it, and the same answer is always given. "No officer will write this violation". Meanwhile, the people of this state keep having their properties damaged, suffering serious injuries, or tragically losing their lives. Though nothing can be guaranteed, we feel proper enforcement of Chandler's Law, along with a little common sense on everyone's part, "that our supervisors don't believe we have ether" would greatly affect how ATVs are used. Riding ATVs could return to being a safe and fun recreation again. We are hoping that maybe by making you aware that you could be an advocate for us and somehow help us find out what the problem is before another person is lost. If the law needs to be rewritten or if officers need some type of guidelines on exactly how to properly enforce it, we wouldn't object to either. This is a very good law that was passed and it needs enforcing. Again, we are truly sorry for what this has personally cost you.

Please understand if we gave our names for this letter. The repercussions from Director Taylor would be detrimental to us all.

Sincerely,
Officers of SCDNR Law Enforcement

Cc. Senator C. Bradley Hutto
Governor Nikki R. Haley
S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson
SCDNR Board Chairman Glenn McFadden