



Tillamook Coast Visitors Association
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Re: Support for Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is Dan Haag, Director of Trails, Outdoor Recreation, and Accessibility with Tillamook Coast Visitors Association and I am providing testimony on behalf of our organization

Tillamook Coast Visitors Association is the destination management organization for Tillamook County and we are a 501c6 nonprofit doing business as "Visit Tillamook Coast." Through destination management activities based on sustainable tourism principles, Tillamook Coast Visitors Association strives to do work that benefits residents and livability, supports our industry and its workforce, and creates visitor respect for our environment and community. Equitable access to the outdoors via trails and beach paths are a vital part of our identity and contribute mightily to our area's economic health, as well as to the physical health of our visitors and residents. As the first county in the state to experience trail and access closures related to this issue, it is alarming to imagine further such actions being taken, both here and across Oregon.

I want to see a fix to Oregon's recreational immunity law because having access to trails, beaches, and forests is part of what makes us Oregonians. As we learned during Covid, getting outside and enjoying fresh air and beautiful vistas was an essential part of processing with such a stressful situation, particularly along the North Coast. Oregon's coastal outdoors are a place to breathe, reflect, and relax. A big part of my job is to provide fun, safe and equitable outdoor experiences for all. Hiking, bike riding, and beach walking are a vital component to the continued health and well-being of the people who live here full time and the people who choose to vacation here.

In regards to visitation, it is almost incomprehensible to think of how a loss of tourism could impact local small businesses many of whom are just now starting to recover from the many Covid-related shutdowns. If people no longer can access trails and beaches or feel welcome to do so, they will no longer feel the need to visit and spend the money in the local economy.

Please pass SB 1576-3 with language that clearly restores recreational immunity for public and private landowners and clearly applies to both improved and unimproved trails so that current and future residents and visitors to the North Oregon Coast can continue to benefit personally and economically from our beautiful outdoor spaces.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for recognizing the place outdoor recreation holds in the hearts of everyone who loves Oregon.

With gratitude,

Dan Haag

Director, Trails, Outdoor Recreation, and Accessibility
Nationally Certified Interpretive Guide & Guide Trainer

