

Submitter: Robert Langley  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1576

RE: Support for Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576

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

As one of the leaders of the Yachats Trails Crew, an all-volunteer group that maintains the trails in our area, I have seen firsthand the benefits of recreational immunity laws. A number of our trails (including the well-known 804 Trail) cross private property solely because of the generosity of the property owners. A number of those property owners are now justifiably concerned about potential liability that did not exist when they agreed to allow public access across their properties.

The lack of recreational immunity in these situations is a serious issue in our community and I urge you to pass SB-1576 with so that recreational immunity will be restored on both improved and unimproved trails on both public and private lands.

As a member of the aforementioned volunteer Trails Crew, along with other volunteers, I plan and build trail infrastructure. I am concerned about personal liability that may result from my engaging in those kinds of projects.

Since this bill will provide just an emergency fix, I further urge you to support a permanent fix. It's important that landowners and land managers have some clarity around this issue so that they can make realistic plans for the future.

I could go into detail about many other reasons (like health benefits, attraction to tourists, etc). trails are so important to me and my community and why this temporary solution and a long term solution are necessary; but have tried, here, to focus on some of the reasons that are more personal to me and my community.

I will appreciate your support of this measure,

Sincerely,

Bob Langley  
Yachats, OR 97498