

Submitter: Joanne Kittel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

My property at 1356 Hwy 101 S, Yachats has a half-mile of the Oregon Coast Trail through it, known as the Amanda Trail. My husband and I were the first private landowners in the State of Oregon to donate a public trail of which OPRD holds the irrevocable easement in the 1980's. Took 25 years to complete this trail but never gave up building it with volunteers foot by foot. This trail fills a previously dangerous gap and connects Cape Perpetua Regional Scenic Area with the City of Yachats. Additionally I gave another 2 acres of my property to OPRD for OCT's first suspension bridge. This section trail contains 4 interpretive signs about our local Indigenous history. A statue is on my property that symbolizes and remembers the government sponsored genocidal policies that led to the extermination of many Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw, and Alsea Peoples. The Amanda Trail has become one of the more popular trails in the State. It is a spiritual and solemn trail that remembers in perpetuity. This trail and the recognition and acceptance by the community of the past atrocities that occurred here have brought reconciliation between a previously divided People. When my husband and I embarked on this journey to share our beautiful land with the public, our only concern was liability. With this gone, I don't know what to do...The trail counter on the trail averages over 1000 visitors a month. I am old now and cannot afford to deal with a lawsuit with such a limited income. Yet, I have no say-so on what happens to this trail. It now belongs to OPRD. the dilemma is that I can still be sued. Even if it is closed, that will not stop people from coming. The Amanda Trail means so much to so many. Please restore the Recreational Immunity Act.