

Submitter: Nancy Steinberg
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

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

I am writing to express fervent support for an immediate temporary remedy, and an eventual permanent remedy, for the recent challenges to Oregon's recreational immunity law.

Outdoor recreation is critical to communities throughout the state. Where I live, in Newport, trails and other outdoor recreation amenities are a crucial element of our quality of life, available to all member of our community regardless of socioeconomic status. Trails are also critical to the network of outdoor opportunities available to our visitors, therefore supporting tourism, one of our most important economic engines. Trails also benefit other communities: animals and plants that live in sensitive habitats where trails allow human visitors but prevent these habitats from being trampled.

Recreational immunity provides landowners and managers with the legal clarity and certainty they need to continue to provide these amenities to the public. Without recreational immunity, landowners, including government entities, may refuse to allow trails to be built, accessed, or maintained, depriving Oregonians of critical recreational opportunities.

I urge the committee to act swiftly to restore recreational immunity protections. Thank you for accepting comment on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Nancy Steinberg
Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, City of Newport
Member, Newport Trail Stewards
(541) 961-3459
458 NE Chambers Ct. Newport