



11 February 2024

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee—

I strongly support the proposed -3 Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment for SB 1576.

A life-long Oregonian, I have been doing business as a nature guide on the southern Oregon Coast for almost 30 years.

In addition to clear personal health benefits of accessible outdoor recreation, I use a few local trails to access important natural resources for some of the interpretive activities I provide—activities for people to increase their understanding of those resources. **Trail access is vital for people to get out into nature to experience it and to learn about it.**

Further, I know that those trails are important not only because they provide direct human access, but **they also control human access**, ultimately protecting some, more vulnerable areas while directing visitation to more resistant ones.

Last, one of the services I offer are “community tours for recruitment” that inform prospective professional employees about life in our community and in Oregon. A big draw for people thinking of moving to Oregon is the high accessibility of our abundant and diverse natural resources—and the number and variety of trails is key to maintaining that fundamental accessibility. Things like **“hiking on a trail” or “walking down to the beach” are central parts of Oregonians’ treasured experience and of Oregon’s national image.**

I want to see the fix to Oregon’s Recreational Immunity law this session so that wholistic planning to improve and maintain valuable public access to our natural resources can proceed—for important health, resource, and economic reasons.

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.

Thank you for your work on this issue, and for taking action to safeguard this key Oregon attribute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty Giles".

Marty Giles

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