

Submitter: Krysti Weddle  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1576

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

My name is Krysti and I am writing on behalf of myself to express support for -3 Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576. Trails access in Oregon has been an extremely important part of my life. When I moved to Oregon over 10 years ago it was my first time having access to so many trails, parks, and coastal lands. Hiking and recreating in these places became a huge part of a healing journey in my life. Preserving and protecting access to these lands is an essential part of ensuring all Oregonians have access to spaces for physical fitness, mental health, appreciation of nature, community engagement, safe off-road travel alternatives, and so much more.

Recreational immunity is important to both public land owners and parks providers as well as land trusts and private landowners who open their lands to the public through trail easements or other allowances. Without recreational immunity, landowners fear the real risk of expensive lawsuits and cannot afford to keep their trails and lands open to the public. Continued lack of protection for these landowners will mean more closed trails, less safe access to public spaces, less tourism, and a cascading negative affect on outdoor recreation in Oregon.

This bill provides a critical emergency fix, but I am eager to see a permanent fix to provide landowners with the assurance they need to plan for future recreation access. 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.

By passing this bill we can protect the landowners and in doing so, continue to provide Oregonians with access to our states unparalleled outdoor spaces. The health and well being of our communities depend on us to make this a priority.

Many thanks for your time, consideration, and leadership on this issue, ??Krysti Weddle ?Portland, Oregon