

2/10/24

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

I support -3 Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576

Here is why:

- I'm a native 4th generation Oregonian. My family has a history of land ownership in Portland, Cannon Beach, Gearhart, Bend, Sunriver and Milwaukie, as well as Long Beach, Washington.
- My Dad, Kenneth Kraemer, served in the legislature in the 1950s and was involved with the bottle bill and public beach access bills.
- As an avid cyclist and hiker on Oregon trails all my life. Now at 67 years old, I've been heavily involved in advocacy of cycling in Portland and Bend - as a volunteer in the gradeschools, assisting in Bike Safety Program training for over 20 years.
- As property owners, we're eager to see a permanent fix to provide landowners with the assurance needed to plan for future recreation access.

Recreational immunity is important to both public land owners and parks providers.

Improved trails can help protect sensitive habitat by directing the public away from sensitive areas. trusts and private landowners who open their lands to the public through trail easements or other allowances

Trails and access to nature and outdoor recreation provide many benefits to individuals and communities including: physical fitness and health benefits, mental health benefits, connection to and appreciation for nature, economic benefits to communities of outdoor recreation visitors and related businesses, safety benefits of alternatives to roadways for walking and biking, community connections.

Without recreational immunity, **I fear the real risk of expensive lawsuits** and cannot afford to access to trails and lands open to the public. We are especially concerned about increased liability of making trail improvements like bridges, railings, and boardwalks, even though such construction both can better protect sensitive habitat and make trails recreation destinations like beaches, rivers, etc more accessible to all ages and abilities.

Please restore recreational immunity to:

- Encourage land managers to keep trails, especially trails providing access to beaches and other recreational areas open to the public.
- Provide landowners with the clarity they need to keep planned trail improvement and development projects on track for the benefit of the public and for the preservation of sensitive habitats.
 - I want to see a fix to Oregon's Recreational Immunity law this session because the long term impact of doing NOTHING is not an option.

Please pass SB 1576-3 with strong language that clearly restores recreational immunity for public and private landowners and clearly applies to both improved and unimproved trails

Thank you for each of your considerations and leadership as we move through this vital update and preserve our incredible assets.

Very sincerely,

Nancy S Kraemer
Nancy S. Kraemer Trust