



**Senate Judiciary Committee
Support for SB 1576 -3 Recreational Immunity Fix
February 12, 2024**

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

I am writing on behalf of Oregon's 17 community colleges and the students and communities they serve to urge your support for the -3 amendments to SB 1576. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Oregon's community colleges are open access institutions with campuses across Oregon that are situated in settings that lend themselves to recreational use by members of their surrounding communities. Many of the community colleges have trails on their property or provide access to recreational trails on adjoining lands. These are used by runners, walkers, and bikers who are using these public lands to recreate at no charge.

Due to the recent court case limiting recreational liability for public and private landowners, including community colleges that make their land available for recreational use by the public, we are concerned about the increased risk colleges will assume if the Legislature fails to address this ruling. The provisions in the -3 amendments provide an immediate, interim solution to the conflict between the decision in this case and the long-time understanding related to recreational immunity. We understand that this is an interim fix, and we look forward to the development of a comprehensive fix to the recreational immunity statutes in 2025.

We appreciate your support for these amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen M. Smith', written over a thin horizontal line.

Karen M. Smith
Interim Executive Director