

Submitter: Brennan Morrow
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the recently introduced immunity provisions regarding recreational activities on public and private lands in Oregon. As someone deeply connected to the vibrant outdoor life that our beautiful state offers, I understand the significant impact these provisions will have on preserving and promoting recreational access for all.

Oregon's vast natural landscapes, from its lush forests to its rugged coastlines, have long been the backbone of a thriving recreational industry, contributing billions to our economy. More than just economic contributors, these spaces are where memories are made, where families bond, and where individuals find solace and adventure. The amendments aimed at providing immunity to landowners, cities, local governments, and nonprofit organizations are not just legal adjustments; they are a lifeline to the very essence of what makes Oregon unique.

This legislation strikes a crucial balance, encouraging landowners to open their lands for public enjoyment while maintaining a reasonable expectation of personal responsibility for those who partake in these recreational activities. It acknowledges a fundamental truth: while we strive to make our shared spaces as safe as possible, there is an inherent level of risk involved in exploring the natural world. Individuals must carry some level of responsibility for their safety, acknowledging the unpredictable nature of outdoor activities.

The immunity clause is a testament to our collective commitment to preserving Oregon's legacy as a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. It ensures that the fear of litigation does not hinder our access to the natural beauty that surrounds us. This is especially critical in a time when the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor activities have never been more apparent.

I firmly believe that these provisions will safeguard and sustain the recreational industry that so many Oregonians depend on, not just for their livelihoods but for their well-being. It is a bold step towards securing a future where the joys of the great outdoors remain accessible to everyone, without placing an undue burden on those willing to share their lands with the public.

Let us stand together in support of this crucial legislation. By doing so, we uphold the spirit of adventure that defines Oregon, ensuring that our natural treasures can be enjoyed responsibly by generations to come.