

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 179 – Recreational Immunity Protections

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chelsea Taylor, and I'm writing in strong support of **Senate Bill 179**, which would provide lasting recreational immunity protections. As someone deeply involved in trail development and stewardship through my work with the Salmonberry Trail Foundation, Trail Keepers of Oregon, and the Oregon Trails Coalition, I see every day how critical trails are to Oregon's communities—for recreation, connection, and even daily transportation.

Removing the sunset from the current law, as SB 179 proposes, is a crucial step. It provides much-needed stability for public agencies and others who open land for public use, ensuring they aren't discouraged by liability concerns.

That said, I believe the bill can go even further to strengthen Oregon's recreational immunity framework. I respectfully urge the committee to consider the following improvements:

- **Extend the increased level of immunity in Section 1 to private landowners** who allow the public to access their land free of charge. These landowners help expand our trail systems and deserve the same protections as public providers.
- **More clearly cover trails that serve both recreational and transportation purposes.** Current law leaves too much room for interpretation around a user's intent, and that ambiguity can threaten the status of essential shared-use paths that connect neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces.

Passing SB 179, with these additions, would ensure more comprehensive and lasting protections—keeping Oregon's trails open and our communities thriving.

Thank you for your time, and for your commitment to ensuring public access to the outdoors.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Taylor