

Submitter: Jessy Fabrizio-Stover
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB179

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the committee,

My name is Jessy Fabrizio-Stover, and I am the Destination Development Manager for the Willamette Valley Visitors Association, the Regional Destination Management Organization for the Willamette Valley. Our mission is focused on promoting responsible tourism and regional economic well-being that benefits residents and visitors alike. Within tourism and economic development, trails and outdoor recreation are documented as a significant draw for visitors and locals to explore Oregon. Personally, access to outdoor recreation and trails is a major reason I love living in Oregon, I find great joy in being surrounded by outdoor spaces and embracing the seasons through our outdoors. Access to public lands is a fundamental part of Oregon's culture.

I strongly support passing lasting recreational immunity protections to keep Oregon's trails open.

The bill as currently written importantly removes the sunset from the current law. However, I would also like to see the following additional improvements to our state's recreational immunity statutes:

Extend the increased level of immunity in Section 1 of the bill to private landowners who open their land to the public free of charge

Clarify more strongly that trails that serve dual purpose as both recreation and transportation facilities are covered under the law; address the problem of subjective intent

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,
Jessy Fabrizio-Stover