



COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

2540 NE MLK JR BLVD, PORTLAND, OR 97212 • 503-719-4732 • OREGONLANDTRUSTS.ORG

February 5th, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government

From: The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

RE: Support for S.B. 1593, Recreational Liability Reform

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), we would like to share our strong support for recreational liability waiver reform as proposed in S.B. 1593.

COLT is a membership organization representing 31 land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, and conservation organizations working across Oregon to protect our habitat and natural spaces – for all people, forever. Collectively, our members have protected more than 782,000 acres of land across our state.

Oregon's land trusts are deeply embedded in the communities they serve. Our members offer volunteer stewardship opportunities, professional development, and outdoor education and recreation programs for youth and families. Reforming Oregon's recreational liability waiver standards ensures land trusts and other conservation nonprofits can continue to provide these programs for their communities.

S.B. 1593 is a critical step towards a more certain future for us all, and represents a balanced, reasonable framework that restores enforceable waivers while upholding operator responsibility. **However, we respectfully request this Committee work to amend the bill to include parent signature on behalf of a minor.**

Many land trusts offer youth and family programming, putting great value on families recreating in the outdoors and participating in stewardship activities



24 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Blue Mountain Land Trust • Center for Natural Lands Management • Columbia Land Trust
Deschutes Land Trust • Ducks Unlimited • Forest Park Conservancy • Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust
Greenbelt Land Trust • Klamath Lake Land Trust • Lower Nehalem Community Trust • McKenzie River Trust
North Coast Land Conservancy • Northwest Rangeland Trust • Oregon Agricultural Trust • Oregon Desert Land Trust

Pacific Forest Trust • Southern Oregon Land Conservancy • The Conservation Fund • The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
The Trust for Public Land • The Wetlands Conservancy • Wallowa Land Trust • Western Rivers Conservancy • Wild Rivers Land Trust
8 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Black Oregon Land Trust • Cerro Gordo Land Conservancy • Clackamas Soil & Water
Conservation District • East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District • Helvetia Community Association
Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District • View the Future • Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District

together. The enforceability of recreational liability waivers - including parent or guardian consent for minors - is essential for these programs to continue.

- Greenbelt Land Trust runs the [Mighty Acorns Club](#), which welcomed 195 new youth of all ages from the Corvallis area in 2025,
- Deschutes Land Trust has [multiple opportunities](#) for kids and youth to get outside including [Nature Kids](#), which operates guided family/kid nature walks, and
- Southern Oregon Land Conservancy runs [nature journaling field trips](#) for K-12 and stewardship volunteer opportunities.

These examples represent just a small snapshot of the outdoor education, recreation, and stewardship opportunities land trusts provide across Oregon. The continued viability of these programs, and our ability to serve our communities, depends on the sensible reform of Oregon's liability waiver system. Without this reform, rising insurance costs and legal uncertainty may force land trusts to scale back or eliminate certain recreation and volunteer stewardship opportunities altogether.

Thank you for your attention and dedication to this issue. We urge the Committee to support S.B. 1593 and to strengthen the bill by including an amendment that allows parents and legal guardians to sign liability waivers on behalf of minors participating in recreation and stewardship activities.

Sincerely,



Joe Buttafuoco
Executive Director
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

