

Submitter: James Hammett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1545

I am writing to express my strong support for clarifying Oregon law to allow corner crossing as a lawful means of accessing public land. As you know, millions of acres of public ground in the West are effectively unreachable because they touch private parcels only at a single point. Corner crossing—stepping from one public parcel to another without setting foot on private land—respects private property rights while restoring the public's ability to reach land they already own. Western states are increasingly recognizing that this simple, non-intrusive act is not trespass, and Oregon should not lag behind.

Ensuring legal access to public land strengthens rural economies, supports hunting and recreation, and reduces conflict between landowners and the public by providing a clear, workable rule. Corner crossing does not diminish private rights; it simply prevents the creation of de facto private fiefdoms out of public resources. I urge you to support legislation or administrative guidance that affirms corner crossing as lawful in Oregon and protects responsible public access for future generations.

Thank you,
Jim Hammett, residing in Grant and Malheur Counties