

Testimony in Support of SB 1545

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Submitted by Tristan Henry, Oregon Field Representative

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1545.

TRCP is a national conservation organization dedicated to guaranteeing all Americans quality places to hunt and fish. Our work is guided by support for science-based wildlife management, respect for private property rights, and a belief that public lands should be accessible to the public.

SB 1545 addresses a long-standing area of uncertainty in Oregon law related to corner crossing between public land parcels. While TRCP has not taken a formal position on the legality of corner crossing, we believe that the continued lack of clarity around liability and enforcement has not served landowners, sportsmen, or law enforcement well.

This bill takes a narrow and practical approach. It does not attempt to relitigate the legality of corner crossing or create new access rights. Instead, it focuses on providing clear guidance regarding civil liability and criminal enforcement, helping to reduce conflict and uncertainty on the ground.

Specifically, SB 1545:

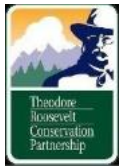
- Clarifies that individuals lawfully accessing public land through corner crossing are not subject to criminal trespass enforcement.
- Limits civil trespass claims where no damage occurs and there is no unreasonable interference with private property.
- Maintains important protections for landowners by preserving remedies for damage, misconduct, or interference.

We appreciate that this legislation is carefully balanced; recognizing private property rights while acknowledging the practical realities faced by the public, landowners, and law enforcement in checkerboard landscapes that are common in Oregon.

SB 1545 also reflects strong bipartisan and bicameral leadership, including sponsors who are respected voices among landowners, farmers, ranchers, and conservation advocates alike. That credibility, paired with the bill's narrow scope, positions it well for success.

TRCP supports efforts that reduce conflict, improve clarity, and foster durable solutions. For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support for SB 1545.

Thank you for your consideration.



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