

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

We write in support of SB 1545.

For many years, uncertainty around corner crossings between public land parcels has created confusion and conflict across Oregon, particularly in checkerboarded ownership landscapes. The absence of clear statutory guidance has not served landowners, sportsmen, or law enforcement well, often leaving all parties to operate in a legal gray area.

SB 1545 takes a measured and responsible approach to addressing this uncertainty. Rather than redefining access rights or property ownership, the bill focuses narrowly on clarifying civil liability and criminal enforcement. By doing so, it provides consistency and predictability without creating new mandates or obligations.

The bill protects private property by preserving remedies for damage and unreasonable interference, while also ensuring that lawful access to public land is not treated as a criminal act. This balanced framework reduces the likelihood of conflict and promotes compliance in the field.

Importantly, SB 1545 carries low political risk, includes broad bipartisan support, and will have minimal economic impact. It does not require new programs, funding, or enforcement infrastructure, nor does it impose costs on landowners or the state. Instead, it clarifies existing law in a way that benefits all parties.

We appreciate the bipartisan leadership behind this effort and respectfully urge your support for SB 1545.

Sincerely,

Tristan Henry, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Amy Patrick, Drift Creek Consulting / Oregon Hunters Association

Devin O'Dea, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Marie Neumiller, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

James Adkins, Northwest Steelheaders

Cristina Jones, Fur Takers of America

Craig L. Foster, Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation

Larry Phillips, American Sportfishing Association