

To: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

SUBJECT: Support SB 1590

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and members of the committee,

My name is Cody Winger. I reside in SE Portland. I have called Oregon home for just a couple months shy of ten years now. I am a hunter, an angler, a backpacker, an avid supporter and user of public lands, and I therefore write to you **in strong support of SB 1590**.

I work an extremely stressful and demanding job. That is why I am submitting this testimony so late, and over my lunch break, no less. I am very passionate about what I do, but it takes everything out of me. By the end of each work week, I am exhausted and depleted. I'm also barely in the middle class. I have no land of my own; nor do my friends or family. I have no access to private land. The only thing that truly makes me feel somewhat whole again is recreating in wild places on public land. Whether it's fishing, hunting, hiking, or camping, I am far from the only person who has a deep connection to and need for connecting with the natural world in these places. Thus, the vastness and heritage of Oregon's public lands and the access and proximity of them to Portland is, for me, not only the main reason that I have called Oregon home for almost a decade, but also why I feel proud to call Oregon my home.

In the last few years and under the current administration in particular, we have seen a deeply unfortunate and tragic push to sell off and privatize public land; often, if not always, at the behest of big corporations and the ultra wealthy. If there is one thing that I think most Americans can actually agree on right now, it is that the corruption and greed of the rich and powerful is ruining our country and needs to be stopped.

With SB1590, Oregon lawmakers can take meaningful and proactive steps to protect our public lands here in Oregon, by prohibiting public bodies from using state or local resources to assist the federal government in selling and privatizing federal public lands to private parties.

These are *our* public lands. That is important. They are as much mine as they are yours as they are every other person who resides in this rich and beautiful state that we all choose to call home. These lands are our heritage as Oregonians and Americans. They are more than merely places to be extracted from and exploited by the highest bidder. They belong to all of us and we must all protect them.

Supporting SB1590 is a step in the right direction to safeguarding our public lands from the threat of privatization. Supporting SB1590 is a step in the right direction for ensuring access and opportunity to wild places for Oregonians for generations to come. That matters. It matters to me, and it should matter to you.

I therefore, again, urge your support of SB1590.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cody Winger', written over a horizontal line.

Cody Winger
2410 SE 47th Ave.
Portland, OR 97206
winger.cody@gmail.com