



February 9, 2021

Good afternoon, Chair Witt, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Akashdeep Singh and I am the Policy and Advocacy Manager at OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon. I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2171.

While 95% of Oregonians have engaged in outdoor recreation, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color do not have equitable access to that recreation.

Increasing equitable access to outdoor recreation has numerous benefits beyond it importantly being the right thing to do. It enhances the livability of residents and visitors, increases economic development, and provides resources so that we can better protect our natural environments.

HB 2171 takes actionable steps and investments to increase equitable access to outdoor recreation for underserved communities, including differently-abled individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Akashdeep Singh

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