

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

February 11, 2021

Testimony in Support of SB 289

Chair Senator Beyer, Vice-Chair Senator Findley, and Member Senators Dembrow, Robinson, and Taylor,

My name is Robin Morris Collin. I am the Norma Paulus Professor of Law at Willamette University College of Law. I am here to urge your support for SB 289 Relating to environmental equity.

This bill safeguards access to Oregon's outdoor life for every Oregonian by removing proven offenders from public lands for a limited period of time. The bill will also offer offenders due process and an opportunity to redeem the privilege of access to our public land benefits.

Oregon's magnificent outdoors is a resource of incalculable value. Oregon's natural beauty has inspired many of us to make Oregon our home, despite lower income earnings; an advantage not lost upon our State and private employers who successfully recruit talent to Oregon while offering less income and benefits than competing states. Oregon's natural beauty supports a \$15.6 billion recreation industry within our state, and TravelOregon estimates that in 2019 outdoor recreation supported more than 224,000 full- and part-time jobs statewide and generated \$9.3 billion in wages and compensation. The mental and physical health benefits from outdoors exposure are widely intuitively understood and are now being more intentionally measured and developed in a wide array of settings that benefit our State, from schools to prisons to health care and long-term care facilities.

When harassing behavior, dangerous behavior occurs in our publicly shared outdoors areas, the impact can be harmful not only to those experiencing the behavior, but also to those witnessing the behavior. These actions may exclude black, indigenous and people of color and others including LGBTQI persons, and these effects ripple outward to others who observe and avoid these behaviors. The combined effect makes public outdoor recreation a risky endeavor for those who do not want to confront these behaviors or the contexts in which they may become vulnerable.

The Governor and First Gentleman, Dan Little, have led the Task Force on the Outdoors that has proposed over 30 suggestions in help secure and encourage all members of Oregon especially people who have been the target of intimidating behaviors to safely get involved in the out of doors life. Their report, "2020 Framework for Action," (<https://www.oregon.gov/orec/Documents/OREC-Gov-Task-Force-Outdoors-2020.pdf>) aligns with the intention of this bill to make Oregon outdoor recreation safe for every Oregonian.

I urge support for SB289.

Robin Morris Collin