

Submitter: Bill Hasenjaeger  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1576

2/09/2024

Support for Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of SB 1576 as a person who loves visiting and recreating outdoors on trails in Oregon, coming from my native Washington state. I am also involved in the outdoor industry and support a variety of Oregon-based organizations who are deeply involved in and develop and maintain Oregon's vast recreational trail networks on public lands.

Here in Washington we enjoy strong recreational immunity laws that encourage public access to both public and private lands, while minimizing the risks to both the land owners/managers, the trail users themselves. These laws are foundational to our healthy outdoor recreation economy that employs hundreds of thousands of people and brings in 200 billion dollars annually to our state. Oregon's outdoor recreation economy is also valued at several billion dollars and tens of thousands of jobs (ref: US Bureau of Economic Activity Outdoor Recreation Account, 2022). Without strong recreational immunity protection our states would look billions of dollars in revenue and tens of thousands of good paying jobs.

I have been an active participant in the outdoor recreation economy worldwide for more than 10 years via my small business, and personally participate in Washington's outdoor recreation activities as member and former board president of a local trail advocacy non-profit and a citizens' advisory board for our local municipality. I have experienced first-hand how strong recreation immunity laws support and stimulate both healthy local economic activity and healthy citizens. Without our Washington State immunity laws several of the successful projects I have been a part of over the past years would not have happened.

Please pass SB 1576-3 with language that clearly restores recreational immunity for public and private landowners in Oregon, and clearly applies to both improved and unimproved trails. Do it for the sake of a healthy Oregon economy, healthy Oregon jobs, and healthier and happier citizens.

Thank you for your consideration to support this important legislation for the benefit of Oregon's environmental, economic and human health, and for those of us who love visiting Oregon and recreating outside on Oregon's beautiful lands.

Sincerely,  
Bill Hasenjaeger  
Owner  
Trail Boss  
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