

Feb. 9, 2024



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

I'm writing to express The Intertwine Alliance's strong support for restoration of recreational immunity in Oregon. **Please pass SB 1576-3 with language that clearly restores recreational immunity for public and private landowners and clearly applies to both improved and unimproved trails.**

The Intertwine Alliance is a coalition of 80 public, private and nonprofit partners advocating for investment in parks, trails, green spaces and equitable access to nature throughout the Portland metro region. Along with their recreational importance, trails are critical for climate resilience, local economies, the physical and mental health of our communities, transportation justice, and so much more.

All 50 states in the U.S. have enacted statutes that confer some degree of liability protection to landowners who allow the general public to use their land for recreational purposes. We can't afford to lose the statute here in Oregon. **This bill provides a critical emergency fix, and we urge you to pass it. Next we're eager to see a permanent fix that provides landowners the assurance they need to plan for future recreation access.**

Restoring recreational immunity will:

- Encourage land managers to keep trails open to the public.
- Provide landowners with the clarity they need to keep planned trail improvement and development projects on track for the benefit of the public and for the preservation of sensitive habitats.
- Ensure that access to recreation areas is equitable, by providing basic protections to land managers who make trail improvements that increase access for a broad range of physical abilities.
- Support local outdoor recreation and tourism economies.
- Ensure that the limited public resources and taxpayer dollars can be spent on park and trail maintenance, management, and development that directly benefits the public—and *not* on fighting lawsuits or on measures that shield landowners from liability without directly benefiting the public.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership,

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