

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

From Jeff Clark; forester, educator, hiker, hunter, birder, forager, kayaker, and naturalist.

I'm testifying on behalf of myself, my family (including my dogs), and the youth I serve as a volunteer safety boater for Willamette Riverkeeper, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Tualatin Riverkeepers, and private and the private and public school children I serve.

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, inclusive of water trails and the accesses the public relies on to use them.

My family, friends, and many youth that I work with through several volunteer groups are able to enjoy Oregon's beautiful and life enriching natural wonders due to the access that private and public groups have allowed. This is most clear to me in a couple of areas almost every day. I live in NW Oregon where the majority of the land around my home is private forest. There is public land around me but it is mostly BLM land that is set up as islands surrounded by private land. I have been able to access these private treasures because of the access that private commercial forest such as Longview Fiber and my neighbors have allowed. I walk with my family, dogs, and friends several times each day to recharge my soul and connect with others. Each year my friend and I take our kids for a Father's Day week long kayaking and canoeing trip on the John Day River. We use the 30 Mile access and paddle down to Cottonwood Canyon State Park. Some of the roads and trails we hike on are available because of private landowners work with public agencies to allow access. Without these areas the life of many Oregonians, including my family and I, would be greatly restricted.

Please work on behalf of all Oregonians to keep these areas accessible, and ensure that there will be additional areas in the future.

Thank you for your leadership and willingness to work my behalf of constituents such as myself.

Sincerely,

Jeff Clark

North Plains, OR