

Submitter: Suellen Rinker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

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

Support for Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576

My name is Suellen Rinker, a native Oregonian and resident.

I have spent the majority of my life camping, hiking and enjoying outdoor recreation, in particular hiking the Oregon Coast trail, which intersects with various lands and provides recreational and economic opportunities in our state.

This bill provides a critical emergency fix, and we're also eager to see a permanent fix to provide landowners with the assurance they need to plan for future recreation access.

It is important to restore recreational immunity to:

Encourage land managers to keep trails, especially trails providing access to beaches and other recreational areas 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.

To 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

To support local outdoor recreation and tourism economies

To ensure that 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

To ensure that we don't create disincentives to developing off-street paths and keeping them open when we know that even when off-street paths are in need of maintenance, they provide much safer alternatives to walking or riding on high traffic/high speed roadway.

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 roads.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and my testimony. I appreciate your leadership and service to our community and state.

Suellen Rinker
Portland, Oregon