

RE: Letter in support of Senate Bill 1576

Dear Chair Prozanski and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1576. As I understand it, this bill would formally codify recreational immunity to counties and cities in the state of Oregon from lawsuits from individuals who may injure themselves as they traverse county and/or city land for recreational purposes. I also understand that this legislation would provide reasonable protection to counties and cities from lawsuits from individuals using this land, such as that described in the *Fields v. City of Newport* (Lincoln County Circuit Court, 20CV33573; A177242).

My wife and I are homeowners near Short Beach in Tillamook county. There is only one access point to this spectacular beach due to the steep cliffs, and this access happens to pass through Tillamook county-owned land. My wife and I use this access trail (with my dog) at least twice a week to visit this beach, which is a unique and breathtaking treasure of the Oregon Coast. However, as the result of this lawsuit, Tillamook county has recently posted strongly-worded signs, urging folks not to use this access trail, and thereby preventing all access to Short Beach. I don't blame Tillamook county officials for their cautious approach to protect our county's fiscal resources. But this whole set of events is a shame, and something should be done to prevent such issues and lawsuits!

Frankly, it seems to me that any reasonable person hiking on trails should reasonably know that they are doing so at their own risk. And, if I understand it correctly (I am not a lawyer), Senate Bill 1576 would do exactly that. Please allow the Oregon Senate to vote on this reasonable piece of legislation.

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