



February 11, 2024

Support for -3 Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576

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

I am a volunteer member of the Yamhill County Parks Advisory Board. We have 17 small parks in our county.

I urge the Senate Committee on Judiciary to pass the amendment -3 to SB 1576, as it will address the recreational immunity protection lost in a recent court decision. The goal should be to protect, not restrict, access to public and private improved and unimproved trails.

This bill provides a critical emergency fix, and I'm also eager to see a permanent fix to provide landowners and local governments with the assurance they need to plan for future recreation access. We are beginning a 20 year Master Plan, so this issue is very important to our efforts.

Recreating in constantly changing outdoor environments can carry possible risk of injury. Without recreational immunity, landowners fear the real risk of expensive lawsuits and cannot afford to keep their trails and lands open to the public. They are especially concerned about increased liability of making trail improvements like bridges, railings, and boardwalks, even though such construction both can better protect sensitive habitat and make trails recreation destinations like beaches, rivers, etc more accessible to all ages and abilities. Accessibility is a major goal of our park system.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carla Chambers