

Submitter: Gregg Kleiner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

I am the Project Coordinator of the Joseph Branch Trail Consortium, a nonprofit establishing a 63-mile non-motorized trail in NE Oregon that will connect the small, rural communities of Elgin, Minam, Wallowa, Lostine, Enterprise, and Joseph.

The whole Recreational Immunity lawsuit that took place in Newport has had a severe impact on our ability to move forward with our trail construction. We have been awarded multiple state, federal, and local grants that fund planning and construction of the trail, and yet we find ourselves in a holding pattern as we wait to see if the Legislature can fix this recreational immunity issue.

The grant funding has a time limit, so it is critical that the Legislature at least find a temporary fix for this issue so that we can move forward without losing the grant funding already awarded.

I thank you VERY MUCH for working to squeeze SB 1576 into this short legislative session. I find it incredibly sad that a person can say at what exact moment they begin to "recreate" and if they fall before or after, the state or municipalities are liable for any injuries they incur. It makes no sense, and it goes against everything I appreciate about our great state of Oregon and its access to outdoor recreation. As a lifelong resident of Oregon, I very much thank you for your work on this.

Thanks again,

Gregg Kleiner, Project Coordinator
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