

Submitter: Carol Foley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee:
Support for -3 Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576

I am writing to support the passage of the Senate Bill 1576-3 amendment to make recreational immunity a stronger law regarding parks, trails, and open spaces. For most of my childhood and adult life, I have made a major commitment to parks and trails where I can be in nature and sustain good health. As a native Oregonian, trips to the beach were anticipated every summer. Cross-country skiing was a popular winter activity. And seeking out a local trail was always high on the list when traveling around the state. These experiences were enjoyed with the belief that it was a basic privilege always with us.

Over the last 10 years, I have come to realize the impact parks and trails have on our communities is even greater. In Yamhill County where I live, a recent survey showed that a third want more parks, trails, and scenic byways. Even in what is considered a rural county, these spaces have become what most people rely on for child play, family gatherings, exercise, watching nature, and traveling between communities. Oregon without parks, trails, and open spaces is not a place where most people would want to live or visit.

Support and eventual passage of this amendment to the bill will restore recreational immunity so that landowners of parks, trails, and open spaces can keep these places open to the public 1) without fear of significant liability that would bankrupt the landowner, and 2) by extending insurance coverage at a reasonable risk. Please support this bill so that we can enjoy the outdoors and protect Oregon's reputation as a place of stunning natural beauty.

Carol