



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

Title: Support for Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576

My name is Jenna Berman, and I am proud to represent Team Dirt, a dedicated chapter of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) in Corvallis, Oregon. On behalf of Team Dirt and our community of outdoor enthusiasts, I am writing to urge your support for an amendment to SB 1576 that addresses the critical issue of recreational immunity.

Recreational immunity is a law that encourages landowners to open lands to the public for recreational use by protecting the landowner if a recreational user seeks damages after an injury. This protection is vital for both public and private landowners, as it enables them to provide access to trails and outdoor recreation opportunities without fear of costly litigation.

I'm deeply dismayed and alarmed by the current threat to this law. If left unchecked, it could deter landowners from maintaining and improving trails, restricting public access and diminishing outdoor recreation's positive impacts. This would not only harm our community's well-being but also jeopardize tourism revenue and attraction and retention for places of employment like Oregon State University (OSU).

In Corvallis, we are extremely lucky to live next door to a local forest run by OSU. In fact, I moved to Corvallis because of the proximity to this forest and my own need to get out regularly for mental and physical health. I am not alone in choosing to reside here for the natural beauty and outdoor opportunities that our forests provide. Many professors, families, and professionals I have met share my passion for living in a place that offers unparalleled access to the outdoors. Without swift action to restore recreational immunity, we risk losing not only our cherished trails but also the very essence of what makes Corvallis such a desirable place to live and work.

SB 1576-3 offers a critical emergency fix to restore recreational immunity, addressing the concerns of landowners and safeguarding public access to recreational areas. While this immediate action is vital, we also acknowledge that we need a permanent solution.

For the near-term fix, I urge you to pass SB 1576-3 with language that clearly restores recreational immunity for public and private landowners and applies to both improved and unimproved trails. Your support for this critical legislation will safeguard the future of outdoor recreation as well as economic prosperity in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership in addressing this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Jenna Berman, Team Dirt Chair
303-704-0848

Teamdirt@teamdirt.org

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