

Submitter: David Shuldes
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

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

RE: Support for Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576

My name is David Shuldes and I am writing from Oceanside, Oregon. I would like to see the Oregon legislature implement an immediate fix to Oregon's Recreational Immunity that appears to have become threatened through recent legal decisions. My family and I frequently enjoy use of trails that are located in the North Oregon Coast and Coastal Range public spaces or that are made accessible to the public by landowners. By these routes we can enjoy access to the local ocean beaches and wilderness areas. We love walking down to the waterfall area at Short Beach, for example, as well as using the unimproved trail from downtown Oceanside to the upper neighborhoods during our walks.

The equality of access to Oregon's beaches drew us to this state in particular and is a huge part of our quality and enjoyment of life. All our use of trails enhances our appreciation for and connection to our community, to our neighbors, and to our natural resources. Any move in the direction of restricting access to trails due to private or public concern over individual lawsuits is a huge blow to my own Oregon experience and that of my family. In my view the state must act immediately to protect Recreational Immunity for the benefit of all citizens.

Please pass SB 1576-3 with language that clearly restores recreational immunity for public and private landowners and clearly applies to both improved and unimproved trails. This bill provides a critical emergency fix, and I'm also eager to see a permanent fix to provide landowners with the assurance they need to plan for future recreation access.

I'm grateful for your work with the committee on this important and urgent bill.

Sincerely,
David Shuldes, Oceanside, Oregon