



495 N. State Street
Sutherlin, Oregon 97479
(541) 459-5450

Fax (541) 459-5450

Email suthwcd@qwestoffice.net

In Support of -3 Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice –Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee.

I am Robert Rippy the district manager writing on behalf of Sutherlin Water Control District. This is to express our concerns of the possible loss of recreational immunity. With having our District property, which is an integral part of Sutherlin, open to the public. This includes our two reservoirs: Plat I and Cooper Creek in Douglas County, which includes the 5.5 mile Cooper Creek trail, fishing and recreational areas.

These recreational areas are very important to our community and to have to close or restrict their use would be a great loss to our local residents and visitors to these areas.

Trails and access to nature and outdoor recreation provide so many benefits to individuals and communities including: physical fitness and health benefits, mental health benefits, connection to and appreciation for nature, economic benefits to communities of outdoor recreation visitors and related businesses, safety benefits of alternatives to roadways for walking and biking, community connections.

My board of directors is considering all aspects of the loss of recreational immunity. Including the increase of our insurance policy if this was to remain In effect.

We would like to support that the protections provided by recreational immunity remain in place.

So 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robert Rippy 

Manager Sutherlin Water Control District.