



Deschutes Trails Coalition

Deschutes Trails Coalition
63095 Deschutes Market Road
Bend, OR 97701

Senate Judiciary Committee
Salem, OR

Feb 12, 2024

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

The Deschutes Trails Coalition (DTC) would like to convey our support for the -3 Recreational Immunity Fix Amendment to SB 1576.

We are a coalition of about 30 partner organizations that support sustainable recreation in Central Oregon. This extends to all forms of trail-based recreation: motorized, non-motorized, on snow, off snow. These organizations include trail user groups, land management agencies, tourism, conservation organizations and local businesses. We define *sustainability* to include physical, social, environmental and economic sustainability.

This bill directly affects the social and economic sustainability of our trail network in terms of access to trails as well as the economic benefit of trails to our local communities. Without this amendment to fix Oregon's Recreational Immunity law this session, the enjoyment and access to trails is in jeopardy as are the associated economic benefits by residents and visitors alike.

It is important to restore recreational immunity to ensure that access to recreation areas is equitable, by providing basic protections to land managers who make trail improvements that increase access for a broad range of physical abilities. It is also important to support local outdoor recreation and tourism economies.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jana Johnson".

Jana Johnson
Executive Director
Deschutes Trails Coalition