



Board of Directors

February 12, 2024

Alfredo Moreno
President

Barbie Minor
Secretary

Tya Ping
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Felicita Monteblanco
Director

Miles Palacios
Director

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Doug Menke

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: -3 Amendment, SB 1576

Dear Chair Prozanski and Vice-Chair Thatcher,

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) is the largest special park district in Oregon, spanning 50 square miles and serving about 270,000 people in and around Beaverton, Oregon. Established over 65 years ago, THPRD’s mission is to provide natural areas, high-quality park and recreational facilities, programs, services, and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse communities it serves. We invite people to gather, play, and explore the more than 117 park sites and 70+ miles of hard- and soft-paved trails on the over 3,600 acres of THPRD properties.

The THPRD Board of Directors appreciates the opportunity to express the district’s support for Senate Bill 1576 with the -3 amendment, which clarifies the status of recreational immunity for public and private landowners who make their land available without charge to the public by:

- Including “walking, running, and biking” in the definition of recreational purposes (ORS 105.672); and,
- Including improved trails in the recreational immunity provided by ORS 105.688.


These changes are critical due to a recent court decision that has called into question key components of the Oregon Public Use of Lands Act of 1995. We recognize that the changes made by the -3 amendments are intended to be a short-term correction leading to an interim conversation with stakeholders to address a longer and more comprehensive solution. We believe that this is a necessary interim step to provide assurances regarding the status of recreational immunity for entities like THPRD and park and recreation districts across the state.

THPRD’s urban trail system helps people enjoy the outdoors and explore the natural areas in our community. Please help us make sure that we can continue to do so by supporting the -3 amendments to SB 1576. Please contact Aisha Panas, Deputy General Manager, at a.panas@thprd.org or by phone at 503-816-5804, if you have any questions. We appreciate your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,


Alfredo Moreno
THRPD Board President


Barbie Minor
THRPD Board Secretary


Tya Ping
THRPD Board Secretary Pro-Tem


Felicita Monteblanco
THRPD Board Member


Miles Palacios
THRPD Board Member