

Submitter: Andrew Miller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

This is Andrew Miller and I am a trailrunner and trail builder from Corvallis, OR. I ask you to please pass SB 1576A to restore recreational immunity for public and private landowners!

I do a lot of volunteer trail building so I have a very strong relationship with one of the local landowners: OSU Research Forests. Matt McPharlin, the OSURF Volunteer and Recreation Field Coordinator has told me he is very concerned about the loss of recreational immunity. It may force OSURF to close trails to do legal liability they cannot afford.

I have been recreation on these trails since I first went out there in baby class! I grew up hiking on these trails with my parents and brother. I have friendships on these trails that have lasted over decades. These trails are more than just recreation! Without these trails I would lose my local community! I recreate on these trails almost every day and often do so with my friends. These trails are what has built all my closest relationships in life. Without access to these trails I would lose all that!

Many other people feel the same about these trails! Each year OSU Research Forests receives 155,000 uses! Each year volunteers do 4,000 hours of volunteer trailwork in OSURF to maintain and improve the local trail system!

These trails are a huge asset to the local community, but can only exist if local landowners allow recreation. As landowners have lost the protection of recreational immunity, it is becoming difficult for them to leave their lands open to the public.

Please pass SB1576A to protect landowners so they can continue to allow the public to recreate on their lands.

Andrew Miller