



Support for SB 1576 A Recreational Immunity Fix

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Wallan, and members of the committee:

My name is Torsten Heycke and I am president of the Ashland Woodland and Trails Association (AWTA).

The Ashland, Oregon trail system is well known in the Pacific Northwest and California for hiking, mt biking and running. The design, building and maintaining of that trail system is predicated on recreational immunity. AWTA works closely with the City of Ashland Parks Recreation Commission to maintain trails. There is too much risk under the current arrangement.

With sudden tree die-off in our area, tree limbs and whole trees fall with greater frequency. While we and the City of Ashland Parks are vigilant and do our best to remove down trees, leaners and widow makers, nature is prevailing.

Trail recreation is increasingly a part of the Ashland and Rogue Valley economy since the Almeda fire swept down the rogue valley. COVID further exacerbated our economic outlook. Recreation is key and recreational immunity is key for our continue participation in maintaining a trail system.

- **Please pass SB 1576 A with language that clearly restores recreational immunity for public and private landowners and clearly applies to both improved and unimproved trails**

Thanks for your consideration,

Torsten Heycke
President, Ashland Woodland and Trails Association