

Submitter: JAMES BRETL
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

I strongly support SB 1576A to restore recreational immunity for public and private landowners!

I moved here in 2016 and work at Ascential Technologies in Corvallis. I commute to work on foot most days. The best days take a long route thru some of the beautiful trails here. I share those trails with a group of very great folks ranging in age from teen to 70+. We spend many hours per week sharing these gems. I wouldn't be happy here without those trails. In fact, the value of my home would be dramatically decreased without the strong system of trails we have available to us here in Oregon. Many other people feel the same about these trails! I gladly spend a number of weekends working side by side with other volunteers improving, building, and making these trails safer. 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.

SB 1576A will encourage land managers to keep trails, especially trails providing access to beaches and other recreational areas open to the public.

Provide landowners with the clarity they need to keep planned trail improvement and development projects on track for the benefit of the public and for the preservation of sensitive habitats. It will help 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.

This bill supports local outdoor recreation and tourism economies.

It will help ensure that limited public resources and taxpayer dollars can be spent on park and trail maintenance, management, and development that directly benefits the public and not on fighting lawsuits or on measures that shield landowners from liability without directly benefiting the public