

Submitter: Mark Larabee  
On Behalf Of: Pacific Crest Trail Association  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1576

Dear Committee members.

A recent Oregon Court of Appeals decision (Fields vs. City of Newport) undermines the immunity guaranteed for recreationsists crossing easements, which would result in a severe reduction of land available for Oregonians to enjoy. The Pacific Crest Trail is the Crown jewel of the National Trails System, and though it was designated by Congress in 1968, it still crosses private land easements, including some in Oregon. Nonprofits and land trusts could face costly litigation and increased liability insurance premiums due to the court decision. The passage of SB 1576A would provide important temporary safeguards so we can continue to allow public access to trails and recreational opportunities.

Please support the passage of SB 1576A in the 2024 legislative session. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mark Larabee  
Advocacy Director  
Pacific Crest Trail Association