

Submitter: Sourabh Apte
On Behalf Of: Apte family 4 total
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

Dear Representative Dan Rayfield,

I, on behalf of my family residing in Corvallis, humbly request that the SB1576A bill be passed.

Trails and access to nature and outdoor recreation provide so many benefits to individuals and communities including: physical fitness and health benefits, mental health benefits, connection to and appreciation for nature, economic benefits to communities of outdoor recreation visitors and related businesses, safety benefits of alternatives to roadways for walking and biking, community connections. Improved trails can also help protect sensitive habitat by directing the public away from sensitive areas.

It is important to restore recreational immunity to:

1. Encourage land managers to keep trails, especially trails providing access to beaches and other recreational areas open to the public.
2. 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.
3. 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
4. To support local outdoor recreation and tourism economies
5. To 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
6. To ensure that we don't create disincentives to developing off-street paths and keeping them open when we know that even when off-street paths are in need of maintenance, they provide much safer alternatives to walking or riding on high traffic/high speed roadways.

Please pass SB 1576A to restore recreational immunity for public and private landowners and to both improved and unimproved trails to keep our community trails open and keep trail improvement projects on track.

Sincerely,

Sourabh Apte