

Submitter: Kim McCarrel
On Behalf Of: Oregon Equestrian Trails
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB179

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee:
My name is Kim McCarrel, and I am the VP of Public Lands for Oregon Equestrian Trails, an all-volunteer nonprofit dedicated to building and maintaining trails. We have 700 members statewide who enjoy riding their horses on trails. Without immunity protection for landowners, many of the trails we love will be closed to public access. We want to be able to experience nature when we ride, whether we live near the coast, the forest, or the desert. That's why we support SB179.

As it's currently written, the bill removes the sunset from the current law. This, of course, is essential. But the bill could be even better. We would like to see these amendments added to the bill:

- Extend the increased level of immunity in Section 1 of the bill to private landowners who open their land to the public free of charge
- Clarify more strongly that trails that serve dual purpose as both recreation and transportation facilities are covered under the law; address the problem of subjective intent
- Include broader language like "conveyance" rather than the specific trail activities like walking, biking, and running currently spelled out in the "includes but is not limited to" recreational activities list

Thank you for your consideration.

Kim McCarrel
VP Public Lands
Oregon Equestrian Trails