

Submitter: Renee Patrick  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB179

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is Renee Patrick and I am an avid hiker and professional backpacker who works throughout the state to improve our recreation experiences and help people enjoy the wonderful treasures Oregon has in our trail system. Keeping trails open is vitally important to me and the community because we need areas to explore and adventure outside of cities and urban areas. We need places to connect with nature and find peace and solace in this busy world.

I support passing lasting recreational immunity protections to keep Oregon's trails open.

The bill as currently written importantly removes the sunset from the current law. This is critical! But the bill could be even better. Please consider extending the increased level of immunity in Section 1 of the bill to private landowners who open their land to the public free of charge. Please 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, and please 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 time and attention to this matter.