

Submitter: Joanne Kittel  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB179

I am a private landowner with 27.34 acres on Highway 101 wedged between Yachats and Cape Perpetua. My husband and I are the first private landowners to donate a permanent public trail in the State of Oregon with OPRD holding the irrevocable easement. The Amanda Trail, (half mile on my property) serves as an essential link on the Oregon Coast Trail allowing a trail to be completed on the north side of Cape Perpetua and a trail along the ODOT right -a-way, creating a safe access of 3.2 miles for walkers and hikers. Without this private link, that 3.2-mile link would not exist today. Equally as important, it has served as solemn and spiritual trail educating all who come as to the genocide that tragically occurred at the Alsea Sub-agency prison camp, essential historical truths that had been unknown to this community and beyond until the trail's inception. With tribal supervision there are 4 interpretive signs on the 1/2 mile that educate the public about our local Yaxaik People who lived sustainably here for over 8000 years and the prison camp years. There is a statue and gathering area with seating that is a focal point for ceremony, contemplation and rest. Many events occur here including the tribally led annual New year's Day Peace Hike which competed its 15th year. There are three additional benches with spectacular views of the ocean and the newly created OPRD suspension bridge that crosses Amanda Creek. A trail counter averages over 500 people using the trail monthly.

Because of our donation of the Amanda Trail proved to be valuable and liability safe, 5 private property owners in north Yachats allowed a public loop trail through their properties creating the Ya'Xaik Trail commemorating the Yaxaik People that includes 3 tribally supervised interpretive signs.

The Recreational Immunity Act must be preserved and strengthened to support the Amanda and Yaxaik Trails, and the now many others generously given by private land owners. How can private property owners continue to serve the recreational opportunities that are so valuable to the public without it?