

Submitter:

David Green

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB179

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

Please support SB179 assuring immunity to government agencies providing recreational opportunities, especially trails. The bill should be amended to include any use of the trail, not just biking, walking, and running. It should also be clear that it includes the use of trails for transportation as well as recreation.

In Bend, we have several trails in town that are heavily used for both recreation and transportation. These trails are part of the city's low stress network for biking and walking even though they are managed by our location parks and recreation district which is not part of city government. These trails allow people to move across neighborhoods and the entire city without fear of car traffic and are thus an important part of our transportation system. They help kids get to school safely without having to be driven by their parents. They allow people to travel in a way that keeps them healthy and is much less expensive than driving, lowering living costs, making it possible for them to afford rent by lowering transportation costs. If we lose these trails because of fear that the agencies will be sued, more people will have to drive, which will raise the city's costs for building and maintaining streets.

Thank you,
David Green