



Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts

February 17, 2025

To Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: **Support SB 179 – Recreational Liability**

Chair Prozanski and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD Supports SB 179. Some of our member districts own lands that have or have the potential for public recreation, and the limitations on liability that are provided are very important to us. Currently, these districts include Clackamas, Yamhill, Polk and East Multnomah.

The bill makes the protections applicable to local governments by amending ORS 105.668 (1) (a) to define local governments per ORS 174.166 which defines local governments to including a variety of districts such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Thus, we get the protection we need.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Stan Dean

OACD Advocacy Committee Chair

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