



Access Recreation

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 18, 2025

Re: SB 179 Pass a lasting fix to recreational immunity

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

I represent Access Recreation (AR) in the support of the passage of SB 179. AR is an ad hoc committee of federal, state and city park agency representatives and organizations supporting people living with disabilities in finding parks and trails that meet their needs and desired experience. We believe in lasting recreational immunity protections to keep trails open. Outdoor recreation is vitality important to Oregonians, of all abilities, to maintain their health and to enjoy being in nature for all the individual benefits it provides, including as an alternative to walking to destinations along busy trafficked streets.

SB 179 would remove the sunset for recreational immunity protections for cities, counties, and government agencies that allow public access to their land for recreation. The bill as currently written importantly removes the sunset from the current law. This is critical! But the bill could be even better. We recommend sharing support for the bill while also asking for any of the following to be addressed through amendments:

- 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 assistance in extending the access to Oregon trails for all users by passing SB 179 with the additional considerations, above!

Sincerely,

Access Recreation | Project Manager

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