

Submitter: Stephen Cook

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB179

I urge the Committee to strongly support SB 179, to fix a hole in Oregon's recreational immunity law made by a Court of Appeals decision in *Fields v. City of Newport*.

Here in Oregon we are fortunate that there are so many public and private lands open to the public. But if we want such lands to be open to the public, we need the landowners to be protected from liability--otherwise, they may feel forced to close their lands to the public.

That's where the Recreational Immunity statute comes in. It protects landowners who open their lands to the public by offering them immunity from claims, and it serves the public by encouraging landowners to allow the public to use their lands.

SB 179 would help restore the protections provided to public and nonprofit landowners that were compromised by *Field v. City of Newport*. I urge the Committee to support SB 179, and the full Senate to pass it.