

Submitter: Gail Chun-DeDuonni  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB179

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

Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 179 Pass a lasting fix to recreational immunity

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

In 2019, I moved from California to the small community of Oceanside Oregon. Our closest "big town" neighbor is Tillamook. You may know it for its wonderful cheeses and ice cream.

We are a small group of neighborhoods linked by highways, roads and trails that share a view of the ocean and the Three Arch Rocks, a National Wildlife Refuge established by Theodore Roosevelt in 1907. And as many Oregonians, we view cohabitation with local wildlife as a privilege and responsibility to care for and support our environs.

In September 2022 a legacy hiking trail, having been in continuous use for more than 30years, was closed by new property owners. The trail had served as a link between neighbors and neighborhoods. A group of thirty plus neighbors came together to reestablish access to the trail based on Oregon's Prescriptive Easement. We were successful in reopening our neighborhood trail in September 2024. Based on recreational immunity, we were able to assure the new homeowners immunity from potential liability provided by the statute.

I hope that your Committee will take a step back to consider the current impact and impracticality of the current statute for many of us who just want access to our community. With that must come protection for those who are willing to provide and protect that access.

Respectfully yours,

Gail Chun-DeDuonni  
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