

Submitter: Amy Carlson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB179

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,
As an avid, year-round trail user throughout Oregon, I am writing to support the establishment of lasting recreational immunity protections to keep Oregon's trails open, by passing SB 179.

As currently written, this bill removes the sunset from the current law, which is crucial. I also support strengthening the bill with amendments based on recommendations from the Oregon Trails Coalition including:

- Extending the increased level of immunity in Section 1 of the bill to private landowners who open their land to the public free of charge
- Clarifying 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.

Access to nature and outdoor recreation provides so many benefits to Oregonians and the communities we live in, especially rural communities. However, recreating in constantly changing outdoor environments also carries possible risk of injury. Without recreational immunity, landowners fear the real risk of expensive lawsuits and cannot afford to keep their trails and lands open to the public. This would undermine core Oregon values and put immense pressure/impact on any trails that do remain open. Ensuring lasting recreational immunity would help prevent this.

Thank you for your sincere consideration,
Amy Carlson