

Submitter: Rich and Betsy Reese

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB179

Hello, my name is Betsy Reese. I'm from Portland, and I'm here to testify in support of Senate Bill 179 regarding recreational immunity.

My husband, Rich, and I own property in a rural area that is mostly heavily wooded and quite steep. We have built some trails through our property and plan to build more. We would like to give our neighbors permission to pass through our property on foot on our trails.

We would allow permission for the following purposes:

1. Pedestrian transportation to shorten distances, and to avoid walking on roads with no shoulder or sidewalk,
2. For exercise, or
3. For recreational purposes, such as connecting with nature.

For example, our neighbors on one side of us have middle-school-aged daughters who are friends with the neighbor girls on the other side of us. Passing through our property, would shorten their walk between houses from about a half-mile along rural roads, to about 300 yards along a woodland trail.

Our insurance agent has told us not to allow that, and to post no-trespassing signs, in order to avoid legal liability if someone should get hurt. Please pass the laws that would help connect our community. Please shield us from liability so we can have the option to share our beautiful woodland trails with our neighbors, and so they can share theirs with us.

Thank you.