

Submitter: Greg Dirks
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB179

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee.

The City of Wood Village supports SB 179 restoring recreational immunity, especially to trails and other pathways that could be considered part of the region's transportation network. We appreciate the consideration of SB 179, which if passed would create lasting recreational immunity protections to keep Oregon's trails open. In addition to what has been proposed, it would be beneficial if additional revisions could be considered. This includes 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, and 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. Again, we do appreciate the work that has been done and the consideration to retain this important legal protection of our trail and pathway systems. Thank you again.