



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

Northwest Trail Alliance (NWTA) strongly supports SB 179.

NWTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to create, enhance, and protect mountain bike riding opportunities; to advocate for trail access; to promote responsible mountain biking; and to build, maintain, and ride sustainable trails. We represent over 5,000 members throughout NW Oregon, and formally steward over 300 miles of trails in partnership with land managers at the federal levels down to municipal levels.

Lasting recreational immunity is absolutely critical to keeping Oregon's trails open to all. We see hundreds of thousands of off-road cycling trips taking place throughout the region, the vast majority taking place on multi-use trails that hikers and/or equestrians enjoy as well. The benefits of connecting to the outdoors through recreation — both for personal health and as drivers of local economies — are well-documented. Protecting recreation immunity ensures these benefits are preserved and present for current and future generations of Oregonians.

NWTA supports SB 179, removing the current sunset language to provide this protection to those who open lands for public use. We also encourage the committee to consider amendments that will go further to protect Oregon's recreation:

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

Thank you for all of your work and dedication to providing access to Oregon's lands for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Olivares".

Lisa Olivares
Executive Director