

Submitter: Whitney La Ruffa

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB179

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the committee,

My name is Whitney La Ruffa, a longtime Oregon resident and professional hiker. Over the past 25 years, I have explored the far reaches of our state by foot, savoring every step along the way. Besides my own time spent hiking outside, I have also worked within Oregon's vibrant outdoor industry as a professional, helping to run two separate small businesses. Throughout my career, I have had the pleasure of helping others access the outdoors and experience the restorative aspects of hiking in the woods, along with its mental and physical health benefits. Keeping access to the outdoors is paramount for our state and its residents.

By passing SB 179 you will help ensure that user access is secure. While the current bill is a great start, it could be even better. Please consider the following improvements to Oregon's recreational immunity status:

1. Extend the increased level of immunity in Section 1 of the bill to private landowners who open their land to the public for free.
2. 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.

Thank you,
Whitney