

Submitter: Aaron Turner

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 Aaron Turner and I am an active volunteer Board Chair and trail builder in Benton County, Oregon with Team Dirt.

I recreate throughout Oregon on public and private lands. Without strong recreational immunity laws in place, public and private landowners may close existing trails due to potential for lawsuits. As an individual in charge of building and maintaining trails on BLM land, without strong recreational immunity laws both myself as an individual and a leader of our organization could be held liable in a frivolous lawsuit.

I SUPPORT PASSING LASTING RECREATIONAL IMMUNITY PROTECTIONS TO KEEP OREGONS TRAILS OPEN.

SB 179 removes the sunset from the current law, but could be further improved by:

- 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.
- Clarify more strongly that trails that serve dual purpose as both recreation and transportation facilities are covered under the law; addressing the problem of subjective intent.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony in support of SB 179.

Sincerely,
Aaron Turner