

Submitter:

Kathleen Worley

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB179

As someone who hikes on trails and works as a volunteer to maintain them, I strongly support making permanent the landowner immunity laws. Given the patchwork nature of land ownership that has developed over the years, many trails on public property are "interrupted" by crossing private land. Again over the years, private owners have been persuaded to grant hikers permission for passage, for which we are most grateful. They should not be put at personal financial risk for their kindness. Trail users are well aware that hiking comes with risks, and they accept those risks. Additionally every volunteer trail maintenance group I know has a requirement that volunteers sign waivers acknowledging those risks and accepting that personal responsibility. The "trial period" for this legislation has proved successful. Hence I support making it permanent. Thank you for your consideration.