

Submitter:	Philip Redding
On Behalf Of:	Greater Hells Canyon Council
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 Philip Redding and I am the Program Coordinator for the Blue Mountains Trail, administered by Greater Hells Canyon Council. This 530-mile route in Northeast Oregon was recognized by the Oregon trails Coalition and Travel Oregon as one of our State's "Signature Trails", offering outstanding opportunities for visitorship, recreation, community wellbeing, and public land protection.

I am writing to express my support, and the support of GHCC, for the passage of SB 179. Recreational immunity is critical for landowners to reasonably offer recreational access. The Blue Mountains Trail and many other community recreation assets owe their very existence to free access to public and private land.

While the bill is a step in the right direction, some improvements could be made.

Please consider 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.

Please clarify more strongly that trails serving dual purpose as both recreation and transportation facilities are covered under the law.

Please explicitly address the problem of subjective intent.

Thank you.