

Submitter:	Wendy Giordano
On Behalf Of:	The City of Brookings
Committee:	House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB179

On behalf of the City of Brookings, I respectfully submit this written testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 179. Brookings is a coastal community that values and invests in recreational opportunities as a core part of our identity and economy. Our city maintains trails, open spaces, and public access areas that not only contribute to the health and well-being of our residents but also support a vital tourism economy that sustains local businesses and jobs. The temporary protections provided by SB 1576 have been critical in ensuring we can continue to offer safe, no-cost public access to these spaces without the fear of liability from ordinary negligence claims. SB 179 makes these protections permanent, ensuring that cities like Brookings can continue to maintain and improve recreational infrastructure without the threat of litigation that could otherwise force closures or reduce public access.

In light of the uncertainty caused by the *Fields v. City of Newport* decision, this measure provides clarity and confidence for landowners and local governments alike. It allows communities across Oregon to continue fostering outdoor recreation, promoting public health, and supporting local economies without undue legal risk. We urge your support of SB 179 to make these protections permanent.