



April 24, 2025

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee:

As City Manager of the City of Nehalem, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 179 which aims to restore and reinforce the immunity provisions of the Oregon Public Use of Lands Act.

As you may be aware our quant little city is located on the coast and surrounded by rivers, trails and beaches which makes us and our surrounding cities an outdoor recreation destination which also helps boost our city's tourism economies.

Trails and access to nature and outdoor recreation provide so many benefits to individuals, families and communities in general including physical fitness, health benefits, mental health benefits, connection to and appreciation for nature. It also provides an inexpensive opportunity that everyone should be able to openly enjoy.

It is important to restore recreational immunity to encourage landowners to keep trails, especially trails providing access to beaches and other recreational areas open to the public without fearing the real risk of lawsuits and/or may not being able to no longer afford to keep their trails and lands open to the public.

Please pass SB 179 with language that clearly restores recreational immunity for public and private landowners and clearly applies to both improved and unimproved trails to provide greater liability protection to landowners who allow free public outdoor recreation access on their land.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Longfellow
City Manager
City of Nehalem.