

Submitter: Jeffrey Kelder

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB179

It is my understanding that Senate Bill (S.B.) 179 would create a set of longstanding recreational immunity protections to replace the temporary ones currently slated to "sunset."

I am supportive of the State of Oregon passing legislation that would encourage private landowners to allow public access to the beauty of these lands, without these landowners fearing financial consequences from lawsuits, brought against them by individuals who mismanaged their own safety by failing to act responsibly during their own recreational activities on these lands.

Shifting the blame for their injuries off of themselves and onto the supposed "deep pockets" of the landowners is a travesty. Similar lawsuits have been filed against US National Parks, blaming the parks for not installing guardrails at areas where the plaintiff suffered injury due to their own negligence. In those cases, the Court dismissed the suit, stating that recreational areas have inherent risks, and to mitigate the potential risks in essence destroys the recreational experience.

I think similar principles should influence your committee when considering the passage of S.B 179.