



April 24, 2025

Chair Kropf and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street, Salem OR

Re: SB 179A – Support

On behalf of our Oregon membership, local Chapters and statewide volunteer network, Surfrider Foundation expresses our strong support for SB 179A which supports continued recreational access for Oregonians and meaningful solutions for public and private land managers for addressing recreational immunity. The bill is a product of a diverse group of key stakeholders that have engaged in ongoing efforts to address liability and immunity while maintaining recreational and prescriptive rights of access to Oregon's important areas for outdoor recreation.

Surfrider is a grassroots, non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's ocean, waves and beaches for all people. We operate through a powerful volunteer and chapter network in the state of Oregon with thousands of supporters engaged in our programs, outreach, environmental stewardship and grassroots organizing. At the local level, our chapters are primarily located in coastal communities and have been directly impacted by the over 20 trail closures related to the recent decisions legal opinion that lead to these trail closures, many of which impacts the public right to beach access and our public lands. Access is a universal right and necessary for the public's enjoyment of the beach and our public lands.

SB 1179-A is an important update to address trail closures related to these recreational immunity findings and provide lasting access for Oregonians. Coastal tourism and access to Oregon's beaches represent an over \$800 million economy but access to our beaches and public coastal outdoor special places is also vital for our public health and well-being. A recent assessment of Oregon coastal community well-being (Lindberg et. al, 2019) reinforces this important element of human health and community resilience. Further ensuring recreational access to outdoor spaces and public lands may indeed support both the well-being and community resilience far beyond the impacts to our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and encourage your yes vote for SB 179, a more permanent solution for Oregon's access to our outdoor spaces.

Charlie Plybon
Oregon Policy Manager
South Beach, OR
cplybon@surfrider.org