



CITY OF BEND

April 24, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97701

RE: SB 179 A

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Bend supports SB 179 A and the effort to make permanent the temporary landowner immunity provisions passed during the 2024 Legislative Session. This bill is crucial for ensuring local governments can continue to provide essential access to parks, trails, and recreation for their residents and visitors.

Bend and Central Oregon are recreation destinations. Public access to trails, parks and open spaces are closely held community values. The City of Bend is continuing to invest in a safe transportation network for pedestrians and cyclists that supports and incorporates 84 parks and open spaces and more than 90 miles of trails managed by the Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD).

Among other things, the uncertainty in the law surrounding recreational immunity has made it difficult for the City and BPRD to partner on improvements to the city's transportation network. For example, the question whether walking, running, or bicycling constitutes a recreational activity means we've been unable to add wayfinding signage to these trails without knowing whether that signage transforms an otherwise recreational activity into a transportation activity. By including walking, running, and bicycling as recreational activities, the City and BPRD can have confidence that helping the public find their way around town will not result in additional and unintended liability to the public bodies.

Thank you for considering Senate Bill 179 A. The City of Bend urges your support.

Sincerely,

Russ Grayson
Chief Operations Officer
City of Bend

