



April 24, 2025

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chair Chotzen and members of the committee,

Access Fund and Portland Area Climbing Coalition strongly supports SB 179.

On behalf of the Access Fund and Portland Area Climbing Coalition and the millions of climbers we represent across Oregon and the country, we want to express our support for this legislation and the update to Oregon's recreational immunity law. Lasting recreational immunity is absolutely critical to keeping Oregon's recreational resources open to all. The benefits of connecting to the outdoors through recreation — both for personal health and as drivers of local economies — are well-documented. Protecting recreation immunity ensures these benefits are preserved and present for current and future generations of Oregonians.

Oregon contains some of the most treasured landscapes for rock climbing in the United States, including the Smith Rock and many more. In addition to the existing rock climbing resources on public land, there is also a large amount of potential for expanded access on public and private property across the state. Updating Oregon's recreational immunity law, may improve the ability of climbers to work with both public land managers and private landowners to open their land for recreational use, and responsibly manage rock climbing activities.

Access Fund and Portland Area Climbing Coalition supports SB 179, removing the current sunset language to provide this protection to those who open lands for public use. We also encourage the committee to consider amendments that will go further to protect Oregon's recreation:

- Extend the increased level of immunity in Section 1 of the bill to private landowners who open their land to the public free of charge.
- Clarify more strongly that trails that serve dual purpose as both recreation and transportation facilities are covered under the law; address the problem of subjective intent.

Thank you for your time and dedication to providing access to Oregon's land.

Sincerely,

Katie Goodwin- Access Fund, Western Regional Director, Policy Analyst

*Mark Daverin*

Mark Daverin- Portland Area Climbing Coalition



## **The Access Fund**

The Access Fund is the national climbing advocacy organization whose mission is to lead and inspire the climbing community toward sustainable access and conservation of the climbing environment. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit and accredited land trust representing millions of climbers nationwide in all forms of climbing—rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering, and bouldering—the Access Fund is a US climbing advocacy organization with over 15,000 members and 150 local affiliates. Access Fund provides climbing management expertise, stewardship, project specific funding, and educational outreach. For more information about the Access Fund, visit [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org).

## **Portland Area Climbing Coalition**

The Portland Area Climbing Coalition (PACC) is a 501c(3) member-based, nonprofit consisting of local climbers with the goal of land-stewardship and maintaining access to local climbing areas. In addition to trail work and route maintenance, PACC creates and maintains contacts with land owners, works with national level conservation groups, and helps map long-term projects for Portland climbing areas. For more information about PACC, visit [www.oregonclimbers.org](http://www.oregonclimbers.org).