

Testimony of Kyung Park, State Affairs Advisor

Testimony on SB 179 A

House Committee on Judiciary

April 24, 2025



Metro is the regional government entity that manages more than 18,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas across every community in the region – from Chehalem Ridge on the west to the Sandy River Gorge on the east, from Blue Lake and Smith and Bybee Wetlands on the north to Graham Oaks on the south. Across greater Portland, Metro supports community nature projects, from park building to stream restoration to pollinator gardens. By connecting residents and community organizations to each other, Metro helps build a greater sense of community as the community helps nature.

The court decision, *Fields v. Newport*, put Oregonians in the Metro region and around the state at risk of losing access to parks and trails. However, a temporary fix was passed in the 2024 session. Metro supported the passage of SB 1576 from 2024 which provided a temporary fix to recreational immunity statutes.

Metro supports SB 179 A which makes these safeguards permanent. SB 179 A will encourage outdoor recreation and reduce risks for local governments which in turn can focus resources on delivering quality public services to residents and visitors.

Metro urges your support for SB 179 A.