

Submitter: Karl Findling  
On Behalf Of: Private Citizen  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1545

February 9, 2026

RE: Support—SB1545, AKA: “The Corner Crossing Bill”

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

For the Record, my name is Karl J. Findling. I’m a lifelong Oregonian, and hunter/outdoorsman. I’m the owner of a small business in the Outdoor Recreation Industry, based in Bend, Oregon.

Oregon, is home to over 32 million acres of federal public land, or roughly 53% of our land base. Some of these public lands are situated in a checkerboard configuration, making access to those parcels difficult, unless a Cadastral Survey Marker is present, or until recent technology that utilizes GPS, allowing the ability to cross a corner where two parcels meet at a shared point.

With the recent 10th Circuit Court ruling, affirming the legal process in the landmark, Iron Bar Holdings LLC v. Cape, legally accessing public lands is stepping precisely from one land parcel to another. The ruling also upholds the Unlawful Inclosures Act (“UIA”), 43 U.S.C. §1061, et seq. 43 U.S.C. § 1063, describes where Congress stated, “[n]o person, by force, threats, intimidation, or by fencing or inclosing, or any other unlawful means, shall prevent, or obstruct ...any person from peaceably entering upon...any tract of public land...or shall prevent or obstruct free passage or transit over through public lands...”

SB 1545 brings common-sense clarity to Oregon’s checkerboard public lands. It affirms what the federal courts have already recognized: that stepping from public land to public land at a shared corner is not a crime when done respectfully, and without damaging private property.

SB 1545 will provide clarity and insulates the public and all private landowners, from unnecessary litigation. It will help guide law enforcement, and those seeking to lawfully access public land, where two corners meet at a shared point.

The Bill protects landowners from lawsuits, protects hunters and recreationalists from wrongful trespass charges, costs our state nothing, and reduces conflicts through clear rules that every individual can understand.

This Bill does not expand access—it codifies lawful access to federal public lands that already exists.

This Bill does not allow the public a legal pathway across private property.

This Bill does not provide new access rights or dilute private property rights.

This Bill does not supersede Federal Law.

Thank you for this opportunity to weigh-in, and help clarify what this timely, and necessary Bill will provide for all private landowners, and public land users.

Sincerely,

Karl J. Findling  
Bend, Oregon