



February 8, 2026

Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: SB 1545 – SUPPORT

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (“Friends”) is a non-profit organization with approximately 4,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (“Gorge” or “National Scenic Area”).

Friends supports SB 1545 which protects individuals who “corner cross” on public lands from trespassing claims. Oregon is 53% public land, much of which is in a checkerboard pattern of public and private ownership. In many cases, when someone is recreating on public lands, they must corner cross in a location where two publicly owned parcels meet one or more private parcels. This bill clarifies that corner crossing would not be considered trespassing on the private parcels.

Additionally, this bill provides protection for private landowners whose property is adjacent to a corner crossing. It offers immunity to private landowners from liability claims if someone is injured during a corner crossing.

This bill provides much needed clarity for Oregonians who recreate on our state’s public lands. Please vote “yes” on SB 1545 and pass this legislation during the current session.

Sincerely,
Madison Kenney
Advocacy & Policy Coordinator