

February 9, 2026

Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Central Oregon LandWatch Testimony on Senate Bill 1545 - Support

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1545. Central Oregon LandWatch ("LandWatch") is a Bend-based, non-profit, public interest organization with over 1100 members. LandWatch's mission is to defend and plan for Central Oregon's livable future, and we have advocated for conservation in the region for 40 years. Our members hike, hunt, fish, and engage in other recreation activities on public lands in Central Oregon and have a great interest in maintaining clarity around public lands access.

LandWatch supports SB 1545, which will affirm the right to corner cross on public lands.

Central Oregon comprises millions of acres of public forests, grasslands, and sagebrush steppe interspersed with cities, towns, and ranchlands. Locals and visitors alike enjoy and depend on public lands, which often only offer access points via shared corners. Most public land users already lawfully corner cross without issue, and most private landowners care deeply about both their lands and their communities.

This bill is a commonsense approach to clarifying existing legal access while mitigating conflict between private landowners and public land users. It is a sensible way to ensure that all types of recreationists can continue to confidently use their public lands, while also protecting private landowners' interests.

We respectfully urge this committee to pass SB 1545. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



Fiona Noonan
Wild Lands & Water Program Manager
Central Oregon LandWatch

