



Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair

Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice Chair

Senator Anthony Broadman

Senator Sara Gelser Blouin

Senator James Manning Jr.

Senator Mike McLane

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1545

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Sportfishing Association, we respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill 1545. This bill provides clear and practical guidance for lawful access to Oregon's public lands while fully respecting private property rights.

Oregon is home to nearly 700,000 licensed anglers and more than 100,000 miles of rivers and streams. Many of these waters and the public lands around them are part of a checkerboard pattern where public and private parcels meet. In some cases, uncertainty about trespass laws has made public lands and waters difficult to access, not because of bad behavior, but because the law lacks clarity. Recreational fishing also plays an important role in Oregon's economy, generating nearly 3 billion dollars each year and supporting jobs in communities across the state.

Senate Bill 1545 addresses a narrow issue known as corner crossing. Federal courts, including the Tenth Circuit in *Iron Bar Holdings LLC v. Cape*, have affirmed that stepping precisely from one public land parcel to another at a shared corner is lawful when done carefully and without damaging private property. This bill affirms that existing legal framework rather than creating new access rights.

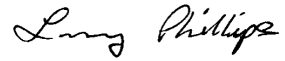
SB 1545 does not create an easement over private property, does not authorize trespass, and does not expand access across private land. It maintains access to public lands while preserving strong protections for landowners. Private property owners retain the ability to pursue remedies for actual damage, nuisance, or unreasonable interference, and the bill applies only at the exact point where public parcels meet.

If enacted, SB 1545 will provide a clearer and more consistent understanding of trespass laws. This clarity will help protect private landowners' rights, provide guidance for law enforcement, and reduce unnecessary conflict and litigation. More than 53 percent of Oregon, over 32 million acres, is public land, and clear rules are essential to managing access responsibly.

This bill requires no new programs, no additional funding, and no new enforcement structure. It simply replaces uncertainty with clarity and reinforces the idea that respect for private property and lawful access to public lands go hand in hand.

For these reasons, the American Sportfishing Association respectfully urges your support of Senate Bill 1545.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Phillips".

Larry Phillips
Pacific Fisheries Policy Director
American Sportfishing Association
Phone: 703-872-9857