



Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation
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February 9, 2026

Senator Floyd Prozanski
Chair, Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: Support of HB 1545, Oregon Corner Crossing.

The Oregon Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation supports HB 1545 for the following reasons.

The U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, in *Iron Bar Holdings LLC vs. Cape* clarified access to public lands across adjoining corners. HB 1545 takes similar action for Oregon without the need for a legal decision and the required legal process under the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

HB 1545 provides public access to public land while protecting private property rights. In Oregon there is a significant amount of public land distributed in a checkerboard pattern with private land. We are aware of one estimate of 471,000 acres of public land where access is currently not available due to the checkerboard pattern of private/public. Our review of the property ownership maps indicates this situation occurs to some extent in every county in the state.

The Iron Bar decision resulted in a substantial number of public land users in Oregon believing that it was precedent setting for Oregon. The decision is not precedent setting for Oregon and HB1545 settles any dispute over this access issue.

The Mission of the Oregon Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (OR WSF) is to promote and enhance populations of bighorn sheep (BHS) and Rocky Mountain goats. OR WSF fund initiatives, partnerships and projects throughout the State of Oregon and beyond to accomplish our purpose and mission. We support scientific solutions to resource management challenges, and we invest in disease research, BHS transplants, habitat management, population management, predator

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management, and conservation education. We want to ensure that BHS populations and their habitats are effectively managed, accessible, utilized and supported by interested stakeholders. ORWSF members are sportsmen and women, recreational shooters, and conservationists. Members support hunting as a wildlife conservation and management tool.

We participate in efforts across Oregon to promote hunting and sustainable-use conservation. ORWSF supports HB 1545 as part of a coalition of conservation organizations.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,



Craig Foster,

President, ORWSF

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