



Clatsop County

Board of Commissioners

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February 16, 2024

Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4048

RE: Support for SB 1576-3

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Committee,

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners urges your support for SB 1576-3, which restores recreational immunity for public and private sector landowners.

Oregonians and Oregon's many visitors enjoy the diverse recreational opportunities our state offers. From the snows of the Willowa Mountains to the sands to the Pacific coast, outdoor recreation is available everywhere in Oregon. In Clatsop County, our parks and waysides provide miles of hiking and bicycle trails, wildlife viewing, ocean views, picnic sites and overnight campgrounds.

Tragically, the *Fields v. City of Newport* ruling has already led to the closure of numerous trails across the State. Creating an important emergency fix, **SB 1576-3 provides the assurances insurers need to advise trail operators on reopening**—keeping our trails accessible and planned trail improvements projects on track. This is especially important for Clatsop County, where trail improvements protect our coastal habitats and make it possible for community members and visitors alike to enjoy our beautiful beaches, rivers, forests, and mountains.

Moreover, Clatsop County hosts a large visitor population year-round. Maintaining public access to these cherished recreational sites in a reasonable and cost-effective manner is critical in supporting our local economy.

Striving to protect and enhance the quality of life for all in our community, we seek your support in preserving public access to Clatsop County's wide variety of recreational opportunities and urge you to vote "yes" on SB 1576-3.

Respectfully,

Mark Kujala, Chair
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners