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February 14, 2024

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

## Re: Support SB 1576-3 amendments to provide recreational immunity temporary fix

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

Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is building a successful community by bringing people together to promote transportation options, safe streets, and walkable neighborhoods.

Trails and access to nature and outdoor recreation provide so many benefits to individuals and communities including: physical fitness and health benefits, mental health benefits, connection to and appreciation for nature, economic benefits to communities of outdoor recreation visitors and related businesses, safety benefits of alternatives to roadways for walking and biking, community connections.

Alas, as you know, a recent court decision jeopardizes access to recreational trails.

BEST supports the -3 amendments to Senate Bill 1576 to adopt a temporary fix to the issue of "recreational immunity" from liability lawsuits. We are confident that you know far more about the legal intricacies and what is needed.

Let's keep Oregon, Oregon, by keeping access to our enjoyable recreational trails open!

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of our great state!

For BEST.

Rob Zako.

**Executive Director** 

Rob Zako

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