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The Oregon Trial Lawyers Association Urges a *YES* vote on HB 2038-A

OTLA supports the compromise reached in HB 2038-A.

Our organization holds as a core principle that juries should be trusted to make reasonable decisions based on the facts of a case.

HB 2038-A largely preserves the rights of injured passengers and pilots, while also enhancing the rights of property owners who own private airstrips.

HB 2038-A provides an incentive to pilots to check in with airstrip owners in advance, and follow other established procedures and protocols. If there are injuries that are caused by the airstrip operator, then pilots who have followed the protocols have to prove gross negligence on the part of the airstrip operator.

Those who have not contacted the airstrip operator in advance and land without permission have to prove that it was the intent of the airstrip operator to cause harm.

HB 2038-A does not put any artificial barriers in place that would make it difficult for a case to get to a jury. HB 2038-A does not create extraordinary timelines for a suit to be brought. This means that – while the standard for proof is tougher than ordinary negligence – Oregon’s pilots and passengers preserve their right to try to make their case.

We appreciated very much the opportunity to work with Oregonians in Action and other advocates to improve the quality of the bill and bring something forward worthy of your support.

From the desk of Senator
Michael Dembrow