



February 12, 2025
House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and
Trade
Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court Street NE
Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3140 Relating to recreation; declaring an emergency

Chair Nguyen and Members of the Committee,

Vamonos Outside, a non-profit organization, fosters an inclusive outdoor culture in Central Oregon, creating opportunities for Latine & BIPOC communities to connect with nature. We strive to provide accessible and safe recreational opportunities for Oregonians, fostering a strong outdoor community. However, the high cost of insurance and potential fear of liability can be harmful to the operations of a small organization like ours, making it difficult to sustain our programs. We want to strive for the best quality programming and allocate funds effectively, but these financial and legal barriers pose significant challenges. Without legislative action, many businesses and organizations like ours may struggle to survive.

HB 3140 provides that an operator may require a person who engages in a sport, fitness, or recreational activity in various ways to release the operator from claims for ordinary negligence. This is a necessary step toward ensuring a fair balance between personal responsibility and business accountability.

Oregon must adopt a balanced approach to liability, ensuring that personal responsibility and business accountability align, as seen in other Western states. This will help sustain our outdoor recreation industry, protect jobs, and maintain access to the natural spaces that define our state.

We urge your support for HB 3140 to address this pressing issue. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Wesley Heredi
Vamonos Outside