

Submitter: Valri Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3140

February 13, 2025

House committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade

Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court Street NE

Room 453

Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3140 Relating to recreation; declaring an emergency

Chair Nguyen and Members of the Committee:

I am the treasurer of the Mt Ashland Association, a Not-for profit 501c 3 organization, one of our goals is to make outdoor recreation on our local mountain more accessible to our community. Thank you for dedicating an entire committee to this very important topic.

Outdoor recreation by its very nature has a degree of risk. Mother nature is very powerful and often unpredictable. That risk is higher when participants are unaware of the risks. We do a lot of work to mitigate the risk, we inspect and mark the trails, we provide lessons, we provide a warm place to rest. In our litigious society an unfortunate incident not caused by our negligence could close our operations for good! We are happy and proud to take responsibility for prudently managing our operation. The whole community would lose if we had to ensure the absolute safety of everyone in this inherently risky environment.

Thank you so much for considering this bill. I urge you to pass this bill so our wonderful natural environment will continue to be accessible to more people.

Sincerely

Valri Williams

Treasurer, Mt Ashland Association

Ashland, OR