



February 13, 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,

I am requesting your support for HB 3140. At Kah-Nee-Ta Hot Springs Resort, we provide a variety of recreational activities, including hot springs relaxation year-round, river tubing, and other indoor and outdoor experiences.

Due to recent legal decisions, Oregon is now the only state in the western U.S. (one of 11) where liability waivers offer no meaningful protection against claims of ordinary negligence. This uncertainty threatens the viability of many recreation businesses in the event of an incident. Additionally, it has significantly increased insurance costs and reduced the number of insurers willing to cover businesses like ours.

I am a strong supporter of the "Protect Oregon Recreation" effort, which is backed not only by businesses but also by the users and consumers of recreational activities. This issue affects all Oregonians, and without reform, we risk losing many recreational opportunities that are currently taken for granted.

Additionally, given Kah-Nee-Ta's geographic location and its susceptibility to wildfires, I am deeply concerned about protecting our business assets and ensuring our long-term sustainability. Continued efforts to combat climate change are essential to preserving our business for generations to come.

I urge you to support HB 3140 to bring Oregon's liability standards in line with those of every other western state. Like in California and Washington, individuals who choose to participate in inherently risky activities should accept responsibility for their own actions, while businesses should remain accountable for gross negligence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Fischer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brett Fischer
CEO
Hot Springs Resort Management
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