

Submitter: Neyssa Hays

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3140

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Isadore, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3140 to address Oregon's extreme and unbalanced liability standards that are making guided and paid recreation opportunities less accessible.

As someone who has spent decades enjoying and advocating for outdoor recreation—whether hiking, cycling, horseback riding, or supporting local trail initiatives—I recognize the value of both free and guided outdoor experiences. Programs like guided rafting, fishing, ski instruction, and race events provide structured, safe ways for people to engage with the outdoors. However, recent court rulings have effectively nullified liability waivers in Oregon, creating an unsustainable burden on recreation providers. As a result, businesses and nonprofits face skyrocketing insurance costs, forcing them to raise prices or eliminate programs altogether. My own organization, Outdoor Education Adventures, pays over \$7,000 per year for liability insurance, in spite of the fact that we have never had a claim in the eight years that we have been in operation.

Oregon should be a leader in outdoor accessibility, but without action, these liability standards will make recreation less affordable and less available to those who need it most. HB 3140 is a necessary fix to restore balance, ensuring that businesses and organizations can continue offering high-quality outdoor experiences.

I urge you to support this bill to keep recreation providers in business, maintain affordable access to outdoor programs, and preserve Oregon's reputation as a state that values and protects outdoor opportunities for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Neyssa Hays
Co-founder and Co-director
Outdoor Education Adventures
Yamhill County