



February 17, 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:

On behalf of the Mt. Ashland Association and Mt. Ashland Ski Area, I write in strong support of HB 3140, which seeks to establish a balanced approach to liability in outdoor recreation. As a nonprofit, community-focused ski area, our mission is to provide affordable and accessible outdoor experiences for all while maintaining the highest safety standards. Our organization and ski area has a 100% volunteer Board of Directors and all proceeds from operating the ski area are reinvested into youth programs, infrastructure, and employee support. We exist solely for the purpose of supporting the quality of life of southern Oregonians and see an average of 100,000 visitors per year.

Like many recreation providers in Oregon, we have faced rising insurance costs due to the state's current liability environment. These escalating costs threaten our ability to invest in infrastructure, keep prices accessible, and continue serving our community. Oregon stands as an outlier among Western states in how it handles liability, and without reform, small recreation-based businesses and nonprofits like ours face increasing financial strain. This situation makes it increasingly difficult to compete with providers in northern California and threatens our ability to serve the community.

It is critical that Oregon adopt a fair approach—one that maintains business accountability while also reinforcing personal responsibility for those who choose to engage in outdoor activities. HB 3140 provides this necessary balance and will help ensure the long-term viability of our state's outdoor recreation economy.

PO Box 220, Ashland, Oregon 97520

www.MtAshland.com

541-482-2897

The Mt. Ashland Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with the mission:
To Provide and Promote a Healthy Quality Experience in an Alpine Environment



Thank you for your time and consideration of this important bill. We appreciate your work to support Oregon's outdoor recreation industry and the communities it serves.

Sincerely,

Andrew Gast
General Manager
Mt. Ashland Ski Area / Mt. Ashland Association

PO Box 220, Ashland, Oregon 97520

www.MtAshland.com

541-482-2897

The Mt. Ashland Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with the mission:
To Provide and Promote a Healthy Quality Experience in an Alpine Environment