

Submitter: Jennifer Wilde

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3140

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

My name is Jennifer Wilde and I am the Director of Outreach for Adventures Without Limits, a nonprofit guide/outfitter that has been facilitating adaptive and inclusive outdoor recreation programs in Oregon for 30 years. We specialize in custom trips that reduce barriers to access for youth, seniors, Veterans, people with disabilities, and other communities who might not have the opportunity to experience Oregon's natural beauty otherwise.

In addition to hiring qualified and highly trained staff, Adventures Without Limits provides accessible transportation, specialized adaptive equipment that is both expensive and not easily purchased in a typical retail store, and all the clothing/gear/equipment that someone would need to safely participate in programs. Despite these additional operational expenses, we do our best to make programs financially accessible as well, and do not pass on the burden of these additional expenses to our program partners and participants, many of whom are participating in an outdoor recreation sport for the very first time.

In the past few years, despite a 30 year safety record as a registered guide/outfitter, our insurance costs have doubled. We have had to reallocate general operating expenses that could support employee retention or subsidized program fees to cover the increased insurance expense, and thus reduced our capacity to serve our mission.

Oregon's Outdoor Recreation Economy is vital to our state, and our community of Guides/Outfitters are passionate, safety focused, stewards of Oregon's outdoor spaces. I am requesting that you support HB 3140 to ensure we are able to continue our work and service to our community.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Wilde  
Adventures Without Limits