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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3140

I am a small hiking tour operator and currently conduct guided tours in Mount Shasta, California. I was considering offering hiking tours in Southern Oregon; however, the risk of conducting such an activity is too high for me knowing that liability form/liability waiver does not protect me or my business from legal action. I feel like Oregon should be in line with other neighboring states and pass the same law as California has where a signed liability waiver protects the business operator/owner from any legal action when client/guest is engaged in the outdoor activity. That's what the waivers are for. Oregon is a very beautiful state and Southern Oregon is known for many outdoor activities and is a tourist destination. However, without having the legal protection, businesses may choose to close its doors or conduct their activities in another state and cities will lose the revenue as well.

I also serve on the Board of Mount Ashland ski area and we are a small non-profit ski resort. Waivers are a big deal in the ski area and they protect ski resorts if something happens, eventually people choose this sport themselves and make their own decision. We already saw some lawsuits brought on other ski areas in the state of Oregon and it prompted them to close some of the activities offered. The state will benefit more if such business will stay open and continue bringing guests/tourists year-round. Legal action could have devastating consequences on smaller ski areas and other businesses in the state and the overall state economy.