



Bicycle Tours

February 18, 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

Dear Chair Nguyen and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this letter of support for HB 3140 and our gratitude to the Committee for committing an entire session to the important issue of recreational liability in Oregon.

We are the owners of Cog Wild Bicycle Tours, a family business that provides daily guided rides, skills instruction, and mountain bike shuttles to National Forest trailheads around Bend and Oakridge and multi day adventures on the backcountry trails throughout Oregon. We are grateful for the privilege to work on public lands and strongly believe in the value of our work for connecting Oregonians and visitors to our exquisite state.

However, there are some real challenges to operating an outdoor recreation business. Besides wildfire, smoke season, paying competitive wages so workers can afford to live in Bend, we also face prohibitively expensive insurance costs. Insurance (auto, workers comp, liability) is a significant portion of our annual expenses even though we've never had a case against us. We mitigate the risks of an inherently dangerous sport through rigorous staff training and constant maintenance on our rental bike fleet and vehicles, yet we are still one lawsuit away from ruin.

We appreciate you and the members of the House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade and are buoyed by the attention you all are giving to this important issue. We encourage you all as our public representatives to help establish a balanced approach between personal responsibility and business accountability like all other Western states. Thank you for considering HB 3140.

Sincerely,

Lev Stryker
Kirin Stryker

Lev and Kirin Stryker
Owners of Cog Wild Bicycle Tours