



Christina Rehklau  
Executive Director  
Visit Corvallis  
113 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 101  
Corvallis, OR 97333

February 18, 2025

Re: HB 3140 Relating to recreation; declaring an emergency

Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Diehl, Vice-Chair Isadore, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade:

On behalf of Visit Corvallis, I express our strong support for House Bill 3140. Outdoor recreation is vital to Benton County's economy and quality of life. However, Oregon's liability waiver standard threatens local businesses, outdoor groups, and non-profits by limiting their ability to provide essential recreation and fitness opportunities.

Benton County's thriving outdoor scene includes the Corvallis-to-the-Sea Trail, which offers visitors and locals a unique opportunity to hike and bike from the Willamette Valley to the Coast. Trails like this are more than just paths through the wilderness—they are economic lifelines to the communities they touch, attracting visitors and supporting local businesses. As an Oregonian proud of our state's lush landscapes and commitment to environmental conservation, seeing this trail come to fruition was a powerful testament to what we can achieve when landowner liability concerns are addressed. The trail has become a beacon for hikers, cyclists, and tourists, fostering sustainable economic growth and exemplifying the symbiotic relationship between law, land, and livelihood.

The potential for event cancellations due to rising costs or liability risks continues to grow as Oregon businesses now face higher liability insurance costs than those in other states. Corvallis has already been adversely affected by the recent college sports conference realignment. Further cancellations would diminish the visitor experience, discourage extended stays, and negatively impact local businesses and the tourism economy.

Our small businesses face significant economic challenges, making a balanced liability waiver standard essential. HB 3140 supports businesses, protects visitors from gross negligence, and ensures Oregon remains a premier outdoor recreation destination.

Visit Corvallis strongly supports House Bill 3140. If you have any questions, please contact me at 541-757-1544 or [christina@visitcorvallis.com](mailto:christina@visitcorvallis.com). Thank you for your service and your commitment to preserving Oregon's outdoor recreation industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina Rehklau".

Visit Corvallis  
Executive Director