

Submitter: Christopher Piper

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3140

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

My name is Chris Piper, Area Manager, with BBSI Central Oregon, a 20-year resident of Bend, and partner and sponsor with the Oregon Outdoor Alliance - I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3140, a bill that seeks to clarify and modernize Oregon's liability waiver standards for operators of sport, fitness, and recreational activities. I believe this legislation is crucial for the continued viability and affordability of these important services in our state.

I am deeply concerned about the current legal landscape surrounding liability waivers. The ambiguity and uncertainty of Oregon's existing standards place a significant burden on businesses like guides, outfitters, ski resorts, fitness centers, and countless others. These businesses face the daily risk of lawsuits stemming from ordinary negligence, even when participants have signed waivers acknowledging the inherent risks of the activity.

This risk translates directly into dramatically increased insurance premiums and operational costs. These costs are then passed on to consumers, making recreational activities less accessible and affordable for Oregonians. In some cases, the financial burden is simply too great, forcing businesses to close their doors entirely. This not only deprives our communities of valuable recreational opportunities but also harms our local economy.

HB 3140 offers a sensible solution by providing greater clarity and predictability regarding the enforceability of liability waivers, this bill will:

- 1) Reduce insurance costs: A more predictable legal environment will allow insurers to better assess risk, leading to lower premiums for operators.
- 2) Lower operational costs: Businesses will have greater certainty in their risk management strategies, reducing the need for costly litigation and legal counsel.
- 3) Maintain affordability: Lower costs for operators will help keep recreational activities affordable for participants.

Protect access to recreation: By reducing the risk of frivolous lawsuits, HB 3140 will help ensure that businesses can continue to offer these important services.

I urge the committee to favorably consider HB 3140. This legislation is a common-sense measure that will protect businesses, preserve recreational opportunities, and

benefit all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Chris Piper, Bend, Oregon