

Submitter: Nick Caccavo

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3140

I'm the owner of Windance Boardshop in Hood River. We sell windsurf, kiteboard, and wingfoil gear. These sports are inherently dangerous and involve risk of death and serious injury. Accidents happen. Equipment fails. These things are fortunately very rare but every year people, including amateurs and seasoned professionals, die and are injured doing these sports in The Gorge.

Gear for these sports is expensive and many people need to try before they buy. We offer equipment demos to help people get a feel for the gear before they commit to buying it.

Our shop would not be able to offer demos without adequate legal protection from liability for the normal risks associated with our sports. This would reduce our sales and result in fewer people recreating on the water.

Our school partners would also not be able to offer proper safety instruction to customers without adequate legal protection from liability. This would both cause fewer people to get into our sports and lead to fewer of the people doing our sports to have proper safety instruction, making our waterways more dangerous to recreate in.

I support enabling customers to waive their right to sue outdoor sports companies for ordinary negligence for these reasons.