



House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade
Oregon State Capital, 900 Court Street NE
Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3140 Relating to Recreation, Declaring and Emergency

Chair Nguyen and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this on behalf of Anthony Lakes Outdoor Recreation (ALORA), a 501c3 non-profit organization located in Northeastern Oregon. ALORA operates Anthony Lakes Ski Area, The Trailhead Bike and Ski Shop located in Baker City, is the concessionaire for multiple USFS campgrounds throughout NE Oregon, and also holds the contract with Baker City to operate the municipally owned Quail Ridge Golf Course.

Operating all of our recreation-based businesses in NE Oregon, a rural and economically disadvantaged region of our state, ALORA prides itself in offering all recreational opportunities, with a specific focus on youth and at an affordable rate. One of ALORA's primary goals which is tied directly to ALORA's mission statement is to "provide outdoor recreational opportunities, with a focus on youth, at an affordable rate."

ALORA has an impeccable record when it comes to both guest and employee safety. However, and based on the current climate regarding liability and responsibility in the state of Oregon and the imbalance of the lack of personal responsibility compared to business accountability, ALORA has not just watched our insurance expense increase of nearly 200% from 2019 to present. In addition, ALORA has been forced to remove certain activities due to the fact that our insurance carrier will no longer cover them. The response from our insurance carrier when asked about the increase as well as removing previously insured activities, is that it is due to the fact that we conduct business in the state of Oregon and protections for our business are not in place like they are in nearly every other state in our region.

Not only has it been extremely tough on our small non-profit but the current climate has also prevented new businesses to get their foot in the door. I am asking that serious consideration goes into returning a fair balance to personal responsibility and business accountability so ALORA can continue to serve our rural communities with opportunities that are not otherwise available.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter Johnson
President
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