

Submitter: Amy Carlson

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,

Protecting access to Oregon's recreational assets is incredibly important to me as a person who recreates year-round throughout Oregon, but also to the hundreds of communities, especially rural communities, that rely on robust recreational opportunities in their region to thrive.

Oregon needs a fix to our liability standard that is extreme and out of balance.

While recreational immunity applies to places and instances where it is free to play, recreational liability applies to places and instances where people sign a waiver and/or pay to play, such as stewardship events, groomed ski areas, guided rafting or fishing trips, or events like races with waivers and entry fees. We need these recreation and fitness opportunities to remain accessible, affordable to Oregonians as well. Oregon businesses are now paying significantly more for liability insurance than other western states. As a result, recreation providers like guides and outfitters and non-profit program providers are forced to either increase program costs or eliminate recreation options altogether.

HB 3140 offers an opportunity to create this liability fix. Let's ensure that Oregonians today, as well as future generations, have robust access to opportunities to recreate and experience the benefits (physical, mental, spiritual). Let's also ensure that communities benefit from the powerful wealth chain associated with recreational activities of all types.

Thank you for your serious consideration,
Amy Carlson