

January 18th, 2025
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301



**TRAILKEEPERS
OF OREGON**

Support for HB 3140: Recreational Liability Balance

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

Trailkeepers of Oregon (TKO) is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the Oregon hiking experience through stewardship, advocacy, and education. Our work engages thousands of volunteers each year in maintaining and restoring trails across the state, ensuring safe and sustainable access to Oregon's incredible natural landscapes.

We are writing in support of HB 3140, which aligns Oregon's recreation liability laws with those of neighboring states. Nonprofit organizations like TKO, along with small businesses and outdoor recreation providers, rely on liability waivers to lead trail stewardship activities and outdoor education programs. These efforts not only improve public access to trails but also instill a culture of responsible and safe recreation.

Currently, the high cost of liability insurance in Oregon puts these programs at risk. Without action, many organizations and businesses will be forced to reduce programming, increase costs, or even cease operations—ultimately limiting Oregonians' access to guided outdoor experiences and critical stewardship efforts.

We urge your support of HB 3140 to help sustain affordable and accessible outdoor recreation and stewardship opportunities for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Kruger", written over a light blue horizontal line.

TKO Executive Director
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