



February 18, 2025

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

Support for HB 3140

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

I am a 2nd generation outfitter and the Vice President and General Manager of ROW Adventures. We are an outfitting business entering our 46th year, and have been operating in Oregon since our first season. We are permitted river outfitters on the Grande Ronde, Lower Owyhee, Deschutes, and Wild and Scenic Rogue Rivers in Oregon.

We are guided by our mission “Sharing Nature - Enriching Lives”, and truly believe that rafting experiences are transformative for people of all walks of lives. Wilderness experiences are getting harder to come by, and we hope to continue to provide these experiences to people for many years to come. Seeing a family reconnecting while spending 4-5 days with no cell phones in beautiful places, participating in playful adventure, is as heart warming as it is fulfilling.

Furthermore, the outdoor industry is a hugely important economic driver, especially in rural economies. We spend our money locally and bring tourists to the area to spend more money. We hire local people. We rent buildings, our vehicles need to be shuttled. Seasonal workers recreate and spend money in the local economies too.

We also act as liaisons for our public lands. We set the example and encourage other users to leave no trace. We demonstrate professionalism on the river and set the example of risk management best practices. When other users need help, we are the first ones there, offering a hand. This value is hugely important to how rivers and lands are used, treated, and respected.

As an outfitter, the most important thing we do is mitigate risk. All outdoor recreation is inherently risky, and this is part of the appeal of what we do. In today's world, people seek, and need a sense of adventure. We want to give people this sense of adventure, while doing everything in our power to mitigate inherent risks.

We are simply asking for the basic protection that every other western state has granted to outfitters and guides. Our participants are willing and well informed. This is an elective activity and people are accepting the risks of these activities in their participation. This is shown by their willingness to sign Acknowledgement of Risk Forms and Waivers. After giving a safety talk, we ask for confirmation that people understand the risks associated with what we do and please nod if they still want to go rafting. In



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other words, well informed participants are still choosing to participate. As such, we are asking the state for simple legal protections for the inherent risks associated with outdoor recreation and cases of simple negligence.

With the passage of this bill, outfitters will hopefully see fewer instances of frivolous litigation, lower insurance rates, and even better informed participants. It is an investment in the resilience of the outfitting and guiding industry and protecting recreation on our public lands for generations to come.

Please help the outdoor recreation economy and support the passage of HB 3140.

Sincerely,

Jonah Grubb

VP and General Manager, ROW Adventures