



Salem Chamber

Convener | Catalyst | Champion

February 19, 2025

Representative Daniel Nguyen, Chair

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Salem Chamber Written Testimony in Support of HB 3140

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chairs Rep. Diehl and Rep. Isadore, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade,

Our organization represents over one thousand (1,000+) local businesses and forty-five thousand (45,000) employees in the Salem area. The breadth and diversity of industries represented by our membership demonstrate an intersection of the small businesses that collectively create our state economy. The Salem Chamber supports a healthy business climate, and healthy recreational activities.

Restoring the validity of liability waivers for ordinary negligence would allow Oregon businesses engaged in sport, fitness, and other recreational activities to obtain liability insurance at similar costs to our surrounding states. Currently, Oregon businesses pay more for liability insurance, and higher premiums create increased consumer costs and even elimination of recreational options.

A business engaged in outdoor sporting, wine and brewery tours, fitness, and other types of recreation need liability insurance to operate. By placing Oregon onto equal standing with surrounding states, our recreational businesses can enhance our local economy and allow Oregonians and tourists alike to enjoy all that Oregon has to offer. We urge the passage of HB 3140 to improve Oregon's recreational industry.

Respectfully,

Tom Hoffert, CEO Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

**Salem Area Chamber
of Commerce**

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Chief Executive Officer

Tom Hoffert
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce