

Submitter: Aaron Kuehn

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3140

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

As a frequent organizer and participant in volunteer-led, small-organization outdoor activities like bicycle rides, trail runs, and river swimming, I have seen firsthand how important outdoor recreation is to our public health and well-being. It is a fundamental part of our way of life as Oregonians, offering physical and mental benefits, and strong community bonds.

However, outdoor recreation does carry inherent risks, and sometimes these activities can result in injuries or even worse. Liability waivers are an essential tool in communicating and acknowledging these risks. They give participants a clear understanding of what to expect and allow leaders to mitigate those risks to the best of their ability. Most guides and leaders work tirelessly to make the outdoors safer and more accessible, helping people enjoy nature responsibly and safely.

House Bill 3140 is a necessary step toward supporting those who make outdoor recreation more accessible and safer for everyone. By allowing liability waivers that align with practices in other western states, we can help protect the volunteers and small organizations who work hard to provide these opportunities. We should be doing everything we can to support those who help us access and enjoy the outdoors more responsibly, and this bill is an important part of that effort.

I strongly support HB 3140 and urge lawmakers to pass it to ensure that those who bring us into nature can continue doing so without the burden of excessive liability concerns.