



June 9, 2025

Support for SB 1196-1: Recreational Liability Balance

Dear Chair Meek and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Trails Coalition advisory council includes federal, state, and local agencies, trail user groups, outdoor industry and tourism partners, and volunteer organizations. We represent walkers, bikers, runners, paddlers, equestrians, adaptive equipment users, skiers, snowmobilers, and motorized trail enthusiasts.

We are writing to share our support for SB 1196 with -1 amendment which moves toward bringing Oregon's laws regarding recreation waivers inline with the balance in all of our neighboring states.

A host of non-profit organizations and small business partners we work with across the state rely on waivers to do the valuable work of leading trail clean-ups and stewardship activities and providing programming that connects Oregon's residents to our natural wonders while also teaching outdoor safety and sustainable recreation practices. However, Oregon businesses are now paying significantly more for liability insurance than other western states. And 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.

We encourage your support to pass SB 1196 with the -1 amendment to keep guided outdoor recreation and stewardship opportunities widely accessible to Oregonians.

Thank you for your leadership,

Stephanie Noll,
Director, Oregon Trails Coalition