



# JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

## Roads and Parks Administration

**Steve Lambert**  
*Director*

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June 10, 2025

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
Chair, Senator Mark Meek  
Vice-Chair, Senator Mike McLane

RE: SB 1196 Public Hearing, 06/11/2025

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1196 on behalf of Jackson County. As the Roads and Parks Director, I am passionately in favor of this bill, as it provides enforcement of liability waivers for inherently risky outdoor recreation services in which guests of our multiple county parks willingly choose to participate.

As the manager of a large system of county parks, which are the main provider of outdoor recreation opportunities in Southern Oregon, Jackson County provides a multitude of recreational opportunities including non-motorized and motorized boat rentals at three waterbodies in the region which might not otherwise be available. Through partnerships with non-profits, we additionally provide facilities for public shooting ranges, motor sports racing, baseball, and go-kart racing. All of these activities expose participants to a certain amount of risk of which they knowingly and willingly accept.

In certain cases, risk is what draws people to a specific activity, such as riding a dirt motocross bike, or sitting in the seat of a drag racing car and speeding down a track. While providers can take great care to provide as safe of a venue as possible, things can go wrong through no fault of the provider.

As such, the County requires all participants of these types of recreational activities to sign a waiver of liability, releasing Jackson County of all claims. In order to continue providing these recreational opportunities at the levels we do, these releases must be enforceable in a court of law, or they are not worth the paper they are printed on. If not, insurers will cease providing protection for operators and landowners will be forced to stop providing these sought-after services on their properties. Don't be fooled, though, as instead of racing their cars in a facility designed and maintained for such use, drivers will take to the streets and place themselves and the public at greater risk.

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It is imperative that SB 1196 passes as written in the -1 amendment. I implore you to guarantee recreational providers the protections needed to continue to provide the opportunities our guests seek in the safest, most managed means available.

I strongly ask for your support of SB 1196.

Sincerely,

Steve Lambert  
Director