



TO: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
FROM: Oregon Recreation & Park Association
DATE: June 11, 2025
RE: Support for SB 1196 -1 amendments

The Oregon Recreation and Park Association includes city, county and special district parks agencies, and 2,200 park and recreation professionals and volunteers. The parks in your legislative district are likely part of our organization.

ORPA supports the -1 amendments to SB 1196.

Our members provide a multitude of recreational services including but not limited to watercraft rentals, boat moorage, camping, recreation programming from exercise classes to sports, and other vital recreational opportunities to our communities.

These services are vital to the well-being of our customers. They contribute to Oregonians' individual and our community health. They are a vital piece of our recreation-based economy. Without them, we wouldn't be the Oregon we are today, one of adventure and spirit for the outdoors.

Many of these activities have risk associated with them. From boating to yoga, the ability for something to go wrong is ever-present. As such, many of our members require release of liability waivers for activities they provide. However, Oregon's enforcement of these waivers is non-existent.

Our fear is that without legal enforcement of the waivers, already rising insurance rates will continue to climb, eventually to the point that insurance is no longer provided. When that time comes, and it will, Oregonians will be forced to give up the activities they enjoy, communities will become disconnected, our health will decline and our economy will feel the brunt of losing an industry that provides millions of dollars each year to local communities.

We simply ask that when our guests knowingly engage in activities that carry risk and sign a release of claims under their own capacity, these releases must be enforceable by the court of law.

Sincerely,

Amanda Parsons

Amanda Parsons
Executive Director
Oregon Recreation and Park Association