



June 11, 2025
Senator Mark Meek, Chair
Senator Mike McLane, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

RE: Salem Chamber Requesting Yes Vote on SB 1196 -1

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

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 the elimination of recreational options. While Oregon is competition for business and tourism dollars, restoring the validity of liability waivers would recruit additional investment and economic activity to our state economy.

A business engaged in outdoor sporting, agritourism such as chartered tours of wineries and breweries, fitness centers, 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 passage of SB 1196 -1 to improve Oregon's recreational industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Tom Hoffert, CEO Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

**Salem Area Chamber
of Commerce**

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Salem Area Chamber of Commerce