

June 12, 2025

Senate Committee on Finance and  
Revenue Oregon  
State Capitol 900 Court Street NE  
Room 160  
Salem, Oregon 97301



Re: **SB 1196-1 Recreational Liability Reform**

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

Next Adventure has been Oregon's "Alternative Outdoor Store" for more than 28 years. We have four brick-and-mortar stores in Portland, Sandy, and Scappoose and a strong national ecommerce operation. Our vision statement is "A real adventure company leading change in our community" and we are a strongly [values-based organization](#).

In 2021, Next Adventure was the target of an opportunistic lawsuit which came very close to destroying our business. Just a few years ago we offered our customers a robust schedule of trips, tours, classes, and clinics to help them learn to use the outdoor gear that we sell. Due to the lawsuit, we were forced to shut down all outdoor programming to protect our business from further liability exposure.

***The company providing our liability insurance dropped us due to the uniquely risky Oregon legal landscape and we were forced to accept a policy at dramatically increased rates. This was one of the key factors in our decision to close all operations later this year, putting our 125 employees out of work and the entire Oregon outdoor community without a source for affordable outdoor equipment.***

We feel it is important to understand that this issue is ***not hypothetical***. Oregon has an extraordinary natural environment that can benefit both Oregonians and visitors from around the world, but our state's out-of-balance liability situation is creating real barriers, real impacts, and real losses every single year.

We must achieve a better balance between personal responsibility and business accountability if we are to get the full benefit of the natural wonders this state has to offer.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

*Deek Heykamp*

Deek Heykamp, Co-founder and President

Next Adventure, Inc.  
426 SE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97214  
503-701-7414