



Access Recreation

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court Street NE, S-223
Salem, Oregon 97301

June 13, 2025

SB 1196: Relating to recreation; declaring an emergency

Dear Senator Jama and committee,

I am writing on behalf of Access for All, LLC (Co-owner) and the group (I'm the Founder and Director of) Access Recreation (AR) in the support of the passage of SB 1196. AR is an ad hoc committee of federal, state and city park agency representatives and organizations supporting people living with disabilities in finding parks and trails that meet their needs and desired experience. This bill applies to the access of all Oregonians to affordable recreation, but greatly impacts marginalized communities and people with different abilities.

Court rulings have effectively nullified Oregon liability waivers, impacting the accessibility and affordability of recreation and fitness for people across our state. To level the playing field with other states and preserve recreational opportunities, Oregon needs to re-align with the same balanced standard that exists in every other western state.

The goal of SB 1196 is simple: Take immediate action to address liability reform to realign Oregon with all other Western states and set the groundwork to identify and address climate-driven extreme weather challenges like wildfire smoke.

Liability reform and recreational immunity are related, but different: Liability reform – the proposed reform will enact in Oregon law the well-established legal framework that exists in every other western state. That is, legal waivers can be signed that hold individuals engaged in inherently risky activities responsible for their actions, while businesses will remain accountable for behavior that is reckless or willful. This is the balanced standard that existed in Oregon before the court rulings, and it will ensure consumers have affordable access to recreation and fitness options.

Thank you for your assistance to increase access to affordable and equitable recreation in the state of Oregon for all users by passing SB 1196!

Sincerely,

Access Recreation | Director
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