



Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

...our business is helping your business

June 13, 2025

From the Desk of Rosey Thomas
Executive Director
Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
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Dear Chair Meek, Vice Chair McLane, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and our 450+ local business members, I write to express our strong support for **SB 1196 with the -1 amendment**. This important legislation would restore the validity of liability waivers for ordinary negligence—an essential protection for Oregon businesses in the health, recreation, and sporting industries.

This issue significantly impacts many businesses along Oregon's coast, where tourism is a vital part of our economy. Previous court decisions have effectively nullified these waivers, leading to skyrocketing insurance premiums and, in many cases, insurance providers exiting the Oregon market altogether. The result is a collapsing insurance environment—not due to price gouging, but because of the overwhelming risk and legal exposure businesses now face.

Restoring the enforceability of reasonable liability waivers is a **common-sense solution** that balances consumer safety with economic sustainability. This reform helps prevent egregious lawsuits while ensuring that businesses can continue to operate, grow, and offer recreational services to residents and visitors alike.

This is not just a business issue—it affects the thousands of customers who rely on access to fitness, recreation, and tourism opportunities throughout our region. The South Coast depends heavily on these industries as key drivers of local jobs and growth, and we must do all we can to protect and sustain them.

We respectfully urge your **YES vote on SB 1196 with the -1 amendment**.

Sincerely,
Rosey Thomas


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