



## **Bicycle Tours**

June 18, 2025

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

Re: SB 1196 Relating to recreation

Chair Meek and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my support for SB 1196 and to thank you for considering the challenges that the current liability insurance environment is creating for small businesses. We urge you to take the important step of aligning Oregon's recreation waiver laws with those of other Western states.

My husband Lev and I have owned and operated Cog Wild Bicycle Tours since 2006. We employ an average of 20 people seasonally in Bend and Oakridge to provide daily guided rides, skills instruction, and mountain bike shuttles to the popular trailheads and adventure rides on the backcountry trails throughout Oregon.

Mountain biking is an inherently dangerous sport. While we manage risk by having well trained staff and high quality equipment, accidents can happen so we carry significant liability insurance to protect our business. We haven't had any serious incidents and have had no fatalities in 19 years of business, yet the cost of liability insurance continues to rise and is a significant expense for our very small business. The current state of recreational liability in Oregon leaves us vulnerable to closure from lawsuits, potentially wiping out years of successful operation and the future of our small business.

Liability reform is essential to maintaining safe, affordable, and accessible recreation opportunities. We appreciate your leadership in bringing attention to this critical issue. Lev and I are available to further elaborate on our experience with recreational liability as a small business and welcome any opportunity to contribute to helping this legislation pass.

Respectfully,

*Lev Stryker*

*Kirin Stryker*

Lev and Kirin Stryker  
Owners & Operators

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