

**To: Oregon State Legislators**

Date: June 18, 2025

I'm writing you today to urge you to pass senate bill 1196. Failure of this bill puts at risk the very activity that my Grandfather fought for in World War II. He didn't just serve in the US Army; he was in the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. These were the guys with skis on their feet and guns on their back. These are the guys that opened ski resorts and started ski patrols around the US after the war. Hank Lewis, who started Mt Hood Ski Patrol, also served in the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. My Grandfather told me he fought for our country so the people could have freedom in using our land. If this bill doesn't pass, in addition to the many things it puts at risk in our state, it will end skiing as we know it and the activities that take place at our ski resorts. High school ski racing started in Oregon back in the 1930's. It is a competitive sport that has grown over the years that has thousands of kids participating in it every year from the state of Oregon. As you well know, activities for school age kids are so important. It keeps kids out of trouble, and it helps them develop a sense of teamwork, grit, responsibility, and much more that will help them be better human beings in our community over the years. **THE INSURANCE PROVIDER FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL SKI TEAM IS REFUSING TO RENEW OUR INSURANCE!** We need this bill to pass to preserve this important activity for our current kids and future generations. Please preserve what my Grandfather fought for in WWII!

I understand those who oppose this bill claim some example incidents as reasons for opposing this bill. Some state that passing the bill would make it much harder to hold entities liable, pointing out it would be difficult to prove the level of negligence. It should be a high bar to prove anyone guilty of something. Are you telling me it's more important to make a lawyer's job easier than it is to ensure broad & continued access to outdoor activities? If we make new rules every time something bad happens, we are going to end up with a state/world that has nothing left to offer due to all the restrictions.

Sincerely,

Wayne Allen

President Elect – Metro Ski League