

Dear Governor Kotek, Senate President Wagner, and Speaker Fahey,

I am writing in support of LC 215/LC 204 and common-sense recreation liability reform in Oregon.

My name is Craig Hughson; I am a second-generation guide and outfitter. My father started his outfitting business in 1966, and I have been outfitting and guiding for 42 years.

Guiding is a passion, it is so rewarding showing guests the beauties that Oregon has to offer. My guide crew shares my passion and feelings as well; we are not in it to get rich we do it because we love the outdoors and what Oregon has to offer. It's just so rewarding to see the excitement, joy, and peace in a guest that we have made their trip to Oregon the best and they will be back because of their amazing experience that they shared only in Oregon.

I also feel like we are adding to Oregon's economy one drop at a time, 50% of our guests are from out of state, bringing their money to Oregon businesses. It would kill me to have to quite because of the fear of being sued for something I had no part in or control over.

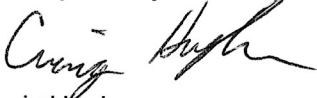
Right now, insurance premiums are rising, the amount of insurance needed is rising and small outfitting and guiding businesses like my own are being forced to put everything they've worked for—their homes, savings and retirement at risk just to show people our rivers and wild places.

This is not sustainable. It is becoming an existential threat to small guide and outfitting businesses in Oregon, to affordable recreation, and to Oregonians' access to the outdoors.

LC 215/LC 204 is common sense, has broad bipartisan support, and is the same simple solution that California, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona and Colorado already have and Oregon used to have. A solution that brings the system back into balance, recognizing there are inherent risks to voluntary recreational activities, while still giving guests an avenue to bring a case to the courts.

If we continue down this path, prices will keep rising, wages will not, small family businesses like mine will disappear, and guiding recreation in Oregon will become something that only the richest people can afford and provide only by large corporations with razor line margins and teams of lawyers. Please this is my livelihood and has been for 42 years and not just mine but others.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Hughson", written in a cursive style.

Craig Hughson  
North West River Outfitters, Inc