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June 12, 2025

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
RE: SUPPORT for SB1196

Dear Chair Meek, Vice Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee

On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce I'm writing to express our strong support for SB1196 and the -1 amendment, which will relieve small businesses from egregious litigation claims that drive up costs, deter insurance providers, and negatively impact our local business climate.

Liability waiver reform is essential to safeguard small business interests and to ensure that Oregon remains competitive and economically vibrant. Oregon businesses currently pay significantly more for liability insurance than other western states. By reducing the risk of excessive litigation and associated costs, SB1196 will empower business owners to invest confidently in growth and innovation.

Moreover, this reform is vital for preserving one of our region's most critical economic sectors, the tourism industry. As a key driver of local growth and job creation, the tourism economy stands to benefit immensely from reduced legal uncertainties, enabling both traditional small businesses and tourism operators to invest confidently in future growth and ensuring Oregon's ongoing competitiveness and vibrancy.

We urge you to vote yes on SB1196. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Mikkelsen'.

Vonnie Mikkelsen  
President and CEO  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce