

House Judiciary

02/20/2024 Upon Adjournment

SB24-058 Landowner Liability Recreational Use Warning Signs

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Byron Harvison For The American Alpine Club	<p>My name is Byron Harvison, and I am the Director of Policy and Government Affairs for the American Alpine Club. On behalf of the American Alpine Club and its more than 26,000 members nationally, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB-58. The American Alpine Club is a non-profit headquartered in Golden, CO. The AAC was founded in 1902 as a national climbing club, representing climbers' interests nationally and internationally. The Club's mission is to share and support its members' passion for climbing and mountaineering, and respect for the places they climb.</p> <p>The AAC recognizes that many of its 4,200 Colorado based members as well as members from other states visit and climb all over Colorado, with some of those destinations being located either on private land or accessed through private land. We recognize the need to protect both the interests of private landowners, as well as user groups, and believe SB-58 strikes that balance.</p> <p>Recent Bureau of Economic Analysis statistics state that the outdoor recreation value added as a percent of the state GDP for Colorado is 2.8%, contributing \$9.5B to the economy, and that total outdoor recreation employment is 129,773 people. It is fair to say that each of those statistics is predicated upon access to recreation. SB-58 provides the necessary protections landowners need to continue to allow access to their lands for recreational use. This bill will restore landowner confidence that they will not be negatively impacted for their generosity in allowing others to recreate on their property.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.</p>
Alejandro Palmaz For themselves	<p>Support this bill. Protect landowners and keep our access open.</p> <p>Thanks</p>

<p>Martin Palmaz For US Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association</p>	<p>House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>Thank you for your time and effort on SB24-058.</p> <p>The United States Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association supports SB24-058. Recreational use statutes are a vital element in providing access to our flying community in Colorado and around the country. Without it, many landowners would not consider granting this invaluable access to launches and landing zones. Not only is vital for landowners, it directly impacts the viability of hang gliding and paragliding in Colorado and nationally.</p> <p>Also, our Colorado-based chapters may be landowners at any point and need these additional protections to support their mission, recreational use, and ultimately their sustainability.</p> <p>Colorado, along with other western states, leads the country by example on many recreational use issues and we hope this will be true here as well.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Martin Palmaz, Executive Director United States Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association, Inc.</p>
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COLORADO

**Outdoor Recreation
Industry Office**

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February 16, 2024

Chair Weissman, Vice Chair Bacon, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Colorado's outdoor recreation industry accounted for \$13.9 billion in value-added GDP annually and contributed over 129,000 jobs in 2022, a number that has grown in recent years. According to the 2017 SCORP report, 92% of Colorado residents participate in outdoor recreation each year. This robust industry relies on access to public and private lands for recreation. The great outdoors is part of Colorado's brand identity, and this identity is at risk. SB 58's central goal is to increase access to free outdoor recreation by reducing liability for landowners. We have seen significant losses to rural economies this past year due to closures of peaks and trails resulting from concerns about the strength of the Colorado Recreational Use Statute. This balanced approach to signage will strengthen the CRUS and increase access to part of what makes Colorado a great place to live and do business. SB 58 has the strong support of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office; we encourage a yes vote from this esteemed committee.

Conor Hall, Director, Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office
Samantha Albert, Deputy Director, Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office

