

Submitter: Sam Drevo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1196

[Date]

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 1196 Liability Reform

Chair Meek and Members of the Committee:

I have been a small business owner in Oregon for 25 years running a kayak school, raft company, river safety business, instructor certification and founding member of a river stewardship organization that promotes river cleanups on Oregon waterways- most notably the Clackamas River (where we have been sponsoring a river cleanup for 23 years). Oregon has more wild and scenic rivers than any state in the country- by a long shot. I moved here for this reason. After spending a decade on the US canoe and kayak team traveling all over the world I settled in Oregon. After attending Lewis and Clark college, I started Northwest River Guides LLC dba eNRG Kayaking, and we have served over 100,000 Oregonian's over the years. We have hosted college and university programs from out of state, and integrated into the tourism industry here in Oregon host visitors responsibly and creating peak experiences which leave visitors and locals alike- wanting to spend more time in Oregon's wild areas.

We employ over 20 people seasonally and five now year round. We run a good business, and do everything we can to mitigate risk, but what we do comes with inherent risk. We can not eliminate the risk associated with our activities, so it becomes quite risky to be operating in this state for that reason alone. We inform everyone before they depart what they can expect and give folks the opportunity to opt out after our "safety talk". We teach people how to use lifejackets properly and help train the largest river guard program in the USA which saves lives every year on our local waterways- like 100s of lives over the years. Our business serves Oregonians and visitors in very important ways concerning quality of life, and acting as ambassitors for reducing environmental impact and leave no trace.

We are dedicated, competent and driven to provide the highest quality service we can over and over. That said, in the last 4 years my insurance rates have nearly tripled. We can barely afford to pay our liability insurance and we have only had 1

minor claim over the 25 years and 100k experiences we have provided. This isn't right and it is partially b/c Oregon does not have basic liability laws in place for recreation. This isn't right considering how many people are attracted to Oregon to recreate annually and you have a robust outfitter guide program that the state supports. Why wouldn't Oregon follow other western states lead to put basic libaility protections into law. SB 1196 does just that and I urge you to get it out of committee and onto the floor for a vote. For the sake of small business owners eeking out a living in the rec industry. OSU puts out a who class of Outdoor Rec and leadership majors every year. Do you want these kids to leave to other states to start business' b/c it is safer to do outdoor rec business outside the state of Oregon?

Please vote yes for SB 1196

Sincerely,

Sam Drevo

Director- Northwest River Guides LLC dba eNRG kayaking

Board Member- We Love Clean Rivers 501c3