

RE: SB 1593 SUPPORT

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and members of the committee

I live in Tigard, Oregon and as an individual, past outdoor outfitter and a current board member of Tualatin Riverkeepers, I believe it is important for residents and tourists to have the option of enjoying Oregon's outdoors by using Oregon's outdoor facilities and guides.

We need SB 1593 passed to ensure we have enforceable waivers, so that access to Oregon's outdoors will be affordable. Without enforceable waivers, insurance costs will soar, resulting in increased and unaffordable costs to participants, resulting in dramatically decreasing the use of Oregon's Outdoor opportunities. These outdoor enthusiasts also spend money at local businesses that would be reduced if it becomes more expensive to visit Oregon's outdoors. SB 1593 is similar to many other enforceable legislation in other states and federal policy (The Explore Act of 2024).

Waivers are a very normal and widely accepted part of enjoying the outdoors.

Some people are comfortable in the outdoors by themselves, but many need a guided trip to ensure their safety.

I owned and guided NW Discoveries for 30 years introducing many people in the Portland area and the USA to explore our natural areas and appreciate Oregon.

Currently I volunteer for Tualatin Riverkeepers which introduces many people to the Tualatin River which is a natural escape for the people living in the Portland area. These guided and rental opportunities are only available and affordable if our signed liability waivers protect us from lawsuits.

Without this protection, insurance sky rockets and prices will be increased , so that many people can no longer safely explore our outdoors.

I am hoping you will support bill SB 1593 , so that everyone can affordably enjoy Oregon's outdoors and support local business.

Thanks for your consideration

Ken Barker, Tigard OR

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