



Re: Support for Senate Bill 1593 (ORCA)

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bart Baldwin, and I'm the owner of Noah's River Adventures in Ashland, Oregon. We are a family-run rafting company, and this year we are proud to be celebrating our 51st year of guiding trips on Oregon rivers. For five decades, Noah's River Adventures has shared the Rogue and other rivers with tens of thousands of guests, many of them first-time paddlers discovering Oregon from the water.

I'm writing today to voice strong support for Senate Bill 1593.

Outfitting, to us, is about more than just running great trips. It's about sharing the river in a way that builds confidence, curiosity, and a real connection to the outdoors. Our guides don't just take people rafting — they help guests learn how to work together, understand the rhythm of the river, and appreciate the wild places we're lucky to call home. Those experiences stick with people long after the trip ends.

Unfortunately, the legal environment for recreation businesses in this state has become increasingly difficult to navigate. When liability waivers are not acknowledged, it creates risk that small, family-run companies can't easily absorb. That uncertainty shows up most clearly in the insurance market, where fewer providers are willing to write policies in Oregon and those that do often charge far more than they used to.

For a seasonal business like ours, unpredictable insurance costs affect every part of our operation — from what we can pay our guides, to how we price our trips, to how much we can invest in our local and rural communities. We operate on tight margins, and sudden increases don't just impact the business; they ripple through our local economy.

SB 1593 helps restore a sense of balance. It recognizes that people who choose to take part in outdoor recreation understand there are inherent risks, while still holding operators responsible for acting professionally and ethically. This clarity is essential if Oregon wants to remain a place where small, family-run outfitters can survive and grow.

After 50 years on Oregon rivers, my hope is to see Noah's River Adventures continue welcoming families, school groups, and visitors for decades to come. Senate Bill 1593 moves us closer to that future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,

Bart Baldwin
Owner, Noah's River Adventures