

Submitter: Sue Fox
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General
Government
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

RE: SB 1593 SUPPORT

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

I am writing in support of SB 1593, for myself and on behalf of Tumalo Creek Kayak & Canoe where I have worked and contributed my best efforts for 14 years. Our core management team has all worked with our single owner for over a decade of his 25 years in business, because we believe in our mission of "Sharing the experience". All of us are long-time paddlers who believe supporting our local community and visitors to Central Oregon, is highly impactful to their enjoyment and safety while paddling on our riverways. Over the decades Tumalo Creek has operated, we have fine-tuned our process of delivering instruction and educating the public, many of which are new-comers to rivers and paddling in general. We are proud of our expertise, our service and the effort we put into our hiring the best guides and staff possible.

With that said, the environment surrounding liability waivers and the cost of insurance to cover these high-demand activities has become challenging. Oregon is now widely visible throughout the nation as an "outdoor mecca" with tourists arriving, in growing numbers, to partake in activities like paddling, biking, climbing, hiking, and skiing. My hope is that as a state, we recognize the need for protection for our local outfitters, big and small, in step with the federal standards. Without support of this legislation, many of the outfitters cannot afford to operate and we risk losing the economic benefits which are considerable to the state, and the public is left to its devices which has its own consequences--risk to themselves and negative impact to the environment. Or tourists simply go somewhere else to spend their vacations.

With the potential passing of this legislation, our company and Oregon outfitters throughout the state, can continue to provide high-quality support with the safest protocols possible. I very much appreciate your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Sue Fox
Manager Tumalo Creek, Bend OR