

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

Subject: Support for Amendment to SB 1593 to include Youth Waivers

I'm glad the Senate Commerce and General Government Committee is hearing SB 1593 to update Oregon laws for a reliable approach to upholding recreational liability waivers. This has long been a concern for many ski areas and other outdoor recreational providers in providing affordable prices to recreational users due to the exorbitant costs associated with liability insurance. These providers obviously want to provide safe, fulfilling experiences in the outdoors for Oregonians but without some liability protections, insurance costs are unsustainable and barriers to operating often many tourist-based businesses.

For other entities such as volunteer organizations that do stewardship activities (weed pulls, restoration planting, trail building, etc.) and entities that provide passive recreation opportunities (bird watching, plant walks, garden tours, etc.), liability waivers are essential in providing these activities at all. Said entities shouldn't be able to be held liable if someone trips and falls on their own accord or injures themselves while pulling a weed. It's just ludicrous to think that way.

It is important to see that the bill be amended to include parent signature on behalf of a minor. All the entities mentioned above put great value on families recreating in the outdoors and participating in stewardship activities together. Let's make sure we are able to do so without the threat of litigation.

I hope the committee will pass SB 1593 with an amendment to include parents and legal guardians signing on behalf of minors participating in recreation and stewardship activities.