

Submitter: Steve Roti
On Behalf Of: Meissner Nordic Ski Club
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

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

Meissner Nordic Ski Club respectfully submits this testimony in support of SB 1593 with an amendment to include youth waivers signed by a parent or guardian.

My name is Steve Roti and I'm the president of Meissner Nordic Ski Club. Our nonprofit club grooms 47 km of cross-country ski trails at Virginia Meissner Sno-Park, located between Bend and Mt Bachelor. We have used liability waivers for many years at ski events such as our annual Tour of Meissner, which draws hundreds of participants from around Oregon and neighboring states.

As you know, most U.S. states enforce liability waivers for ordinary negligence in recreational settings, but since the Oregon Supreme Court made liability waivers for ordinary negligence unenforceable, the result has been increasing legal risk and insurance costs for Oregon recreational businesses and nonprofits like ours.

SB 1593's proposed changes to Oregon's waiver enforceability would reduce costs, create greater certainty for small organizations, and protect access and opportunity for outdoor recreation lovers and stewardship volunteers alike.

Please amend the bill to include youth waivers as we place high value on families recreating and participating in stewardship activities together. Many children ski on our trails, including all of the high school cross-country ski teams in Central Oregon.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.