

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government,

I am writing in strong support of SB 1593 and to encourage your favorable consideration of this important legislation.

I have worked in the outdoor recreation industry for more than 36 years. Over that time, I have served as a mountain bike guide, raft guide, ski resort employee, and senior leader overseeing multiple outdoor recreation departments. My career has been built around providing safe, well-managed access to outdoor experiences while helping people understand and accept the inherent risks that come with them.

I have been fortunate to work in states such as Colorado and Montana, where liability protections for outdoor recreation providers are clearly defined and supported through participant waivers and established policy. Oregon stands out as an outlier in this regard. The lack of reasonable liability protections places an unfair and unsustainable burden on operators who already invest heavily in training, maintenance, and risk management.

This is not an insurance issue, it is a policy issue. Without clarity and protection around ordinary negligence, businesses are forced to operate under uncertainty that discourages investment, limits innovation, and, in many cases, pushes companies out of business entirely. When that happens, the public loses access to professionally guided experiences and well-maintained recreation areas.

Participants in outdoor recreation knowingly accept risk when choosing to engage in these activities. It is neither fair nor practical to place the burden of ordinary negligence entirely on operators who are acting responsibly and in good faith. Strong recreation policy recognizes shared responsibility and ensures that providers can continue to offer safe, accessible opportunities without facing disproportionate legal exposure.

SB 1593 is a necessary step toward bringing Oregon in line with other outdoor recreation states and ensuring the long-term health of this vital industry. I urge you to support this bill so that Oregon can continue to be a place where outdoor recreation thrives safely, responsibly, and sustainably.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Pack