



February 10, 2026

Subject: Support of SB 1593

Dear Chair Meek and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my ardent support of SB 1593, which seeks to restore reasonable and commonly-accepted waiver protections, while maintaining accountability for gross negligence.

I am the Managing Director at Sunriver Resort, which is one of the largest employers in Central Oregon. As one of Oregon's premier year-round destinations, we offer our guests the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, including kayaking, canoeing, standup paddleboards, and floating on the Deschutes, as well as our multiple swimming facilities, biking, and other recreational activities across our 3300-acre backyard.

Safety is not just a policy at Sunriver Resort; it is our number one priority. We have implemented sport-specific safety systems, and we work diligently to ensure our team members support all safety protocols. The responsibility for the safety of our staff and our guests starts with myself, and our entire team's commitment to safety is one that we take very seriously. We prioritize educating our guests to help them enjoy the outdoors within the limits of their skill and current conditions.

Outdoor sports involve inherent risks that cannot be entirely changed or removed without fundamentally altering the activities themselves. Unfortunately, recent Oregon court decisions have weakened the enforceability of liability waivers, creating a legal environment that is increasingly unstable compared to other Western states. This shift has caused insurance premiums to skyrocket and has forced many providers to exit the market.

I strongly support SB 1593 (The Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act), as well as Section 2 of HB 4071, which will quantify the true economic impact of our industry. Together, these bills will provide the data-driven roadmap needed to protect Oregon's reputation as a premier destination for safe, accessible outdoor recreation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Tom O'Shea
Managing Director
Sunriver Resort