



February 10, 2026

Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government  
900 Court St. NE, Salem Oregon 97301

RE: SB 1593 SUPPORT

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

My name is Catherine Alexander. I co-own Red Alder, a small youth outdoor education company based in Salem. I am also the co-founder of the statewide Outdoor School Alliance. **I urge you to support SB 1593, which would bring much-needed liability waiver reform in Oregon.**

Because our organization serves a diverse range of young people in variable outdoor conditions, our members hold themselves to the highest possible safety standards. However, recent legal decisions have created a crippling situation in which Oregon is the only state among eleven Western U.S. states where liability waivers offer no meaningful protection against claims of ordinary negligence (as differentiated from gross negligence in relevant case law). This has drastically reduced the available insurance carriers, which has caused insurance costs to skyrocket beyond the means of small outfitters and program operators.

SB 1593 has broad-spectrum support from small Oregon-owned businesses, nonprofits, and individuals in the outdoor recreation community. Without this reform, we stand to lose many activities that are taken for granted, including windsurfing, skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, youth summer camps, and many indoor athletic events.

Please help us by returning Oregon to the same liability standards as every other neighboring state. Just as in California and Washington, individuals who engage in inherently risky activities will accept responsibility for their activity while outdoor recreation businesses and nonprofits will remain accountable for grossly negligent behavior. Thank you for your time, consideration, and efforts on behalf of all Oregon outdoor enthusiasts.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Alexander*

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