

Submitter: Jason Rogers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jason Rogers. I live in Portland and serve as a high school ski racing coach at Sunset High School. I am also the former President of the Mt. Hood Ski Education Foundation Board of Directors.

I am writing in strong support of SB1593.

For many Oregon families, outdoor recreation is not simply a pastime. It is part of how we raise our children and build community. As a coach, I see the impact of ski racing every day. Students learn responsibility, discipline, accountability, and how to make decisions in challenging environments. They develop resilience and self confidence that carries into school, work, and adulthood.

These programs depend on volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and partnerships with resorts and public lands. They operate on tight budgets and rely on the willingness of adults to step forward and provide opportunities for young people.

The current liability environment in Oregon creates significant uncertainty for these providers. When the legal risk becomes unpredictable or unlimited, insurance costs rise, volunteers hesitate, and organizations reconsider whether they can continue operating. The result is not improved safety. The result is reduced access.

If access to organized outdoor recreation declines, the consequences will extend beyond individual programs. Families choose to live in Oregon because of the opportunities our state offers. Our recreation economy supports jobs across rural and urban communities alike. When programs disappear, rebuilding them can take years or decades.

SB1593 restores balance and clarity. It recognizes that outdoor recreation involves inherent risks while still preserving accountability for negligence. This balance is essential if we want youth programs, nonprofit organizations, and community based recreation to remain viable in Oregon.

I respectfully urge your support for SB1593 to protect access to outdoor recreation for the next generation of Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jason Rogers
Portland, Oregon