

RE: SB 1593 SUPPORT

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB1593.

This bill provides important clarity by affirming that adults may voluntarily assume the inherent risks associated with recreational activities, SB 1593 strikes a fair and reasonable balance between personal responsibility and access to outdoor activities.

Landowners, public land managers, and recreational operators face increasing liability exposure in the current climate here in Oregon. Even when participants willingly engage in activities that carry obvious risks, operators remain vulnerable to costly litigation for ordinary negligence claims. This uncertainty discourages landowners and managers from opening their properties and deters organizations from offering valuable recreational opportunities.

SB 1593 helps ensure that recreation can continue to take place without imposing massive and unpredictable liability risks on those who provide it. As a non-profit, our organization is at risk for increasing insurance costs due to current policies in place that create unreasonable risk. By permitting clear, enforceable waivers for adult participants, the bill protects access to outdoor spaces and supports local businesses, non-profit, and community organizations. At the same time, it preserves accountability by limiting releases to ordinary negligence and not shielding operators from more serious misconduct.

Thank you for your consideration,

Megan Zimmer-Zaikoski
Westside Trail Federation