My name is Pieter Ganzer, and I have been a skier in Oregon since 1981. I am writing to you today in strong support of SB 1593.

For over four decades, I have seen the incredible value that Oregon's outdoor recreation industry brings to our families. My commitment to this community is deep: I have served as a high school ski racing parent, a team parent board member, and a volunteer race official. Today, I continue to participate as a recreational racer and volunteer helper.

I am supporting SB 1593 because Oregon is currently an outlier. Every other Western state, including our neighbors in Washington and California, recognizes the validity of liability waivers for ordinary negligence. Because Oregon does not, our local providers, especially the volunteer-led programs I have served, are facing a crisis of affordability and access.

In my time on high school ski boards, I have seen the "behind the scenes" struggle to keep these programs alive. We rely on a delicate ecosystem of resorts, schools, and volunteers. When insurance premiums skyrocket due to an unpredictable legal landscape, it is the students and the families who lose out. We saw during the 2020/2021 season how vital these outdoor outlets are for the mental health of our youth; we cannot afford to let these programs disappear because of a broken liability system.

SB 1593 is the right solution because it is inclusive. Unlike other narrow proposals that only address a small subset of the industry, SB 1593
protects the entire recreation economy—from large resorts to the small, non-profit volunteer groups that make high school sports possible.

Please support SB 1593 to restore balance, protect our volunteers, and ensure that Oregon remains a place where the next generation can safely and affordably enjoy the outdoors.

Thank you for your service and for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Pieter Ganzer

Beaverton, OR