

Submitter: Jared Kennedy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General
Government
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

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

I am writing in support of SB 1593 with an amendment to include youth waivers signed by a parent or guardian.

SB 1593's proposed changes to Oregon's waiver enforceability would reduce costs, create greater certainty for small organizations, and protect access and opportunity for outdoor recreation lovers and stewardship volunteers alike. Outdoor participation is at an all-time high, coupled with changes at the federal agencies that manage federal public lands, is putting an increased onus on individuals and organizations to maintain and introduce more recreation experiences across the state. It is critical that our liability laws are written to balance protecting recreators and protecting the organizations that work diligently, with substantial volunteer support and limited financial resources, to improve outdoor assets for all visitors. Following the example of other states that have found this balance, and working through the conflicts and challenges posed by our current laws, is an effective and feasible way forward. I am grateful for your leadership on this issue.

Please amend the bill to include youth waivers as we place high value on families recreating and participating in stewardship activities together.