



TO: Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the House Committee

FROM: Cody James Pace, Owner/Operator of The Paddle Shack

DATE: February 5, 2026

RE: Support for SB 1593 (with requested amendment for youth waivers)

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

My name is Cody James Pace, and I own and operate **The Paddle Shack** at the Scappoose Bay Marina. We are a paddlesports retail and rental business located on the water at beautiful Scappoose Bay in Warren, Oregon. Every year, we help thousands of Oregonians and tourists connect with our state's incredible waterways. I am writing today to urge your support for **SB 1593**, provided it is amended to include enforceable youth waivers signed by a parent or guardian.

The Reality for Small Outdoor Providers

In the outdoor recreation industry, waivers are a standard, common-sense part of life. However, Oregon's current lack of clear waiver enforceability creates an environment of "liability limbo." For a small business like mine, this uncertainty translates directly into:

- **Rising Costs:** Skyrocketing insurance premiums that threaten the affordability of our rentals and tours.
- **Limited Access:** When liability is uncapped or unpredictable, small operators are forced to cut "high-risk" (but high-value) programs, such as guided excursions or volunteer stewardship events.
- **Economic Strain:** Oregon risks falling behind our neighbors. Aligning our policies with federal standards (like the Explore Act of 2024) and other Western states ensures we remain a competitive destination for outdoor tourism.

Why the Youth Waiver Amendment Matters

At The Paddle Shack, we see families as the backbone of outdoor stewardship. If we cannot reliably use youth waivers, we are effectively incentivized to limit children's participation to protect the business from frivolous litigation. We want families to recreate together and learn to care for our bays and rivers together. Please amend SB 1593 to include youth waivers so we can keep these opportunities open for the next generation.



Modernizing Oregon's Approach

I also strongly support the state conducting an **economic study** of the outdoor recreation sector. We are a massive driver of Oregon's economy, yet we are often overlooked in policy discussions.

Waivers don't need to be complicated; they are a mutual agreement of risk that allows our culture of adventure to thrive. I ask for your leadership in passing SB 1593 with the inclusion of parental waivers for minors.

Thank you for your time and for supporting Oregon's small outdoor businesses.

Sincerely,

Cody James Pace

Owner/Operator
The Paddle Shack (Scappoose Bay Paddle Center)
Scappoose Bay Marina (Warren, Oregon)