

Submitter: Lon Beale
On Behalf Of: Oregon Recreation
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

RE: SB 1593 SUPPORT

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

My name is Lon Beale, and I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1593 on behalf of Sand Master Park, Venomous Sandboards, and Monarch Sandboards, businesses that have operated continuously on the Oregon Coast since the year 2000. For over two decades, our organizations have provided outdoor recreation experiences that are deeply connected to Oregon's coastal culture, tourism economy, and identity as a state that values access to adventure and the outdoors.

Balanced liability policy is essential to our continued operation and mission. Activities such as sandboarding and dune recreation inherently involve physical risk, which is well understood and voluntarily assumed by participants. Liability waivers are a critical tool that allow small, experience-based businesses like ours to operate responsibly while keeping activities accessible and affordable to the public. Without enforceable waivers, the cost of insurance increases dramatically, programming is reduced, and access—especially for families, youth groups, and first-time participants—is limited.

The current uncertainty surrounding waivers in Oregon places our state out of alignment with other western states and federal policy, including the Explore Act of 2024, which recognizes the importance of recreation-based economies and reasonable risk allocation. Outdoor recreation is a normal and widely accepted part of life, and liability waivers are a standard, well-understood mechanism used across the country. The legislature does not need to overcomplicate this issue—clarity and consistency are what businesses and participants need.

We also support the state conducting an economic study to better quantify the size and impact of the outdoor recreation sector. The economic contribution of activities like ours is substantial, particularly in rural and coastal communities, yet remains undermeasured. Better data will help policymakers make informed decisions that protect both public access and economic vitality.

SB 1593 provides a practical, balanced approach that supports personal responsibility, preserves access to recreation, and allows longstanding Oregon businesses to continue operating safely and sustainably. We respectfully urge your support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Beale

Owner/Operator

Sand Master Park

Venomous Sandboards

Monarch Sandboards

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