

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

RE: SB 1593 SUPPORT

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

My name is Sam Drevo and I own a kayak school and raft company based in Oregon City OR. We have been in business for over 25 years and employ over 20 seasonal staff and serve 10,000's of Oregonians and visitors annually (an important component of the recreation and tourism economy in Clackamas County). We also started the Clackamas River Cleanup over 23 years ago pulling over 80,000 pounds of trash out of the river with over 6000 volunteers. We actively support stewardship efforts on Willamette, Sandy, Mollalla, North Santiam and Deschutes Rivers in Oregon. We engage, build character, and shape youth education about basic water safety awareness through our kids programs, serving over 1000 youth days on the river annually. We are a seasonal and full time employer in Oregon, and we have watched our insurance rates quadruple over the past four years making it increasingly difficult to stay in business.

I am writing in favor of SB 1593. The Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA) SB 1593 is an inclusive and balanced approach for all Oregonians. This would take the first step in re-balancing Oregon's liability waiver laws in a way that promotes small business, non-profit, conservation, volunteer programs and allows Oregon's Fitness, Outdoor and Ski industries, as well as promoting equitable and affordable outdoor recreation opportunities for Oregonians. In just the outfitting and guide industry it represents over 1400 mom and pop small business' who rely on waivers to run their business'.

Balanced policy is critical in the future of recreation in Oregon. There are inherent risks associated with recreation and waivers are a voluntary contract that providers must offer (per insurance requirements), and participants get to acknowledge prior to participating in the activity. The current diminished value of waivers within Oregon's case law gravely affects the recreational culture in Oregon and its future. This environment limits access, negatively affects affordability for Oregonians (and visitors), and ultimately reduces recreational programming at a time that it is more important than ever for public health.

By supporting SB 1593, Oregon will be aligning with all other western states and the federal government (through the EXPLORE act) to acknowledge waivers. Waivers were fully enforceable in Oregon until 2014. We have been working toward a remedy

for over 10 years, and now is the time to make change. We don't need the legislature to over complicate things. Please vote in favor of SB1593

Respectfully,
Sam Drevo
Director
Northwest River Guides LLC/dba eNRG Kayaking