

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

My name is Chris Kresser, and I am an Oregon resident who is passionate about outdoor recreation. I'm an avid skier, mountain biker, and general outdoor enthusiast. While I don't work in the recreation industry, I depend on it for my quality of life and wellbeing.

I'm writing in strong support of SB 1593 / HB 4071.

When I sign a liability waiver before skiing at Mt. Hood or renting a mountain bike, I understand that I'm accepting the inherent risks of these activities. That's a fair exchange—I get to participate in activities I love, and the provider knows they won't be held liable for risks I knowingly chose to take.

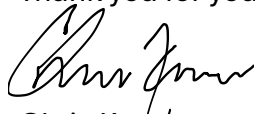
Oregon's current legal landscape, where liability waivers are unenforceable, concerns me deeply. I've watched as recreation costs have increased and I worry about the long-term availability of the activities I enjoy. When businesses face higher insurance costs and unpredictable legal exposure, those costs get passed on to me, or worse, businesses close entirely.

Oregon is the only Western state that doesn't allow enforceable liability waivers. This puts our local recreation providers at a competitive disadvantage and threatens the outdoor experiences that make Oregon such a special place to live.

SB 1593 / HB 4071 is the right fix because it simply brings Oregon in line with every other Western state and now with federal law under the EXPLORE Act. It creates a balanced standard where recreators like me accept responsibility for inherent risks, while providers remain accountable for the safety of their operations.

I urge you to support this legislation to keep Oregon's recreation industry accessible and affordable.

Thank you for your consideration.



Chris Kresser