

WE ARE CAMP.

February 9, 2026

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

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

My name is Kevin English. I am the operator and co-owner of We Are Camp, LLC, (Windells & High Cascade Snowboard Camp) an Oregon-based youth recreation organization that has operated continuously on Mt. Hood since 1989. We provide year-round action sports and outdoor education programs yearround on Mt. Hood, serving thousands of North American and international youth and visiting families each year.

Mount Hood is central to American snowsports development.

For decades, Mt. Hood, and the camps that operate here, have been the primary development pathway for elite American ski and snowboard athletes. A majority of U.S. Ski & Snowboard Olympic and national team athletes have trained here, many of them coming through our camp specifically as children.

One example is Shaun White. He attended our camp as a child when his family had limited financial means. Those early experiences were formative, and years later, because of their impact, he chose to become a co-owner of the camp. His story reflects what access and affordability have historically made possible in Oregon.

That access is now eroding.

Following the *Bagley v. Mt. Bachelor* decision, the loss of enforceable liability waivers has sharply increased general liability insurance premiums across Oregon's snowsports and recreation sector. These costs are passed directly to families through higher lift ticket prices, higher program fees, and reduced access to instruction.



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As a result, snowsports in Oregon are becoming increasingly elite and unaffordable, limited to only those families with substantial financial resources.

This directly undermines our mission by reducing access.

Our mission is “life improvement through people, place, and passion.” When insurance-driven costs force higher pricing, fewer young people can participate, fewer families can afford entry, and Oregon’s recreation culture and economic base are weakened. Families like Shaun White’s, who once could access these opportunities, are increasingly priced out. Many already are so they simply stay in the cities instead of experiencing the mountains.

SB 1593 restores balance.

Waivers are a normal and widely accepted part of recreation in nearly every western state and under federal policy. Participants understand inherent risks, and enforceable waivers allow providers to focus on safety, instruction, and access while preserving accountability for truly negligent conduct.

SB 1593 aligns Oregon with neighboring states and federal policy, including the approach reflected in the federal Explore Act of 2024. I also support a statewide economic study to better quantify the size and importance of Oregon’s recreation economy.

Oregon must act now to preserve access, affordability, and opportunity in recreation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin English
President



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