

Submitter: samer kattih  
On Behalf Of: Imperial River Company  
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

My name is Samer Kattih, and I am the owner and operator of Imperial River Company, a commercial whitewater rafting and outdoor recreation business operating in Oregon.

I am writing in strong support of SB 1593.

As a rafting operator, liability exposure directly affects every aspect of my business—from insurance premiums and coverage availability, to staffing, pricing, and ultimately whether we can continue operating at all. Our guests knowingly and voluntarily participate in inherently risky recreational activities, yet under current law, operators can still face significant legal exposure for ordinary negligence claims even when participants have signed clear and informed waivers.

SB 1593 provides reasonable and much-needed clarity by allowing operators to require adult participants to release claims for ordinary negligence. This does not remove accountability for reckless, willful, or grossly negligent conduct. Instead, it appropriately recognizes personal responsibility for adults who choose to engage in voluntary recreational activities with known risks.

From an operational standpoint, the lack of clarity around enforceable liability releases drives up insurance costs dramatically. In some cases, it makes coverage difficult or impossible to obtain at any reasonable price. These costs are ultimately passed on to consumers, limit small operators' ability to stay in business, and discourage new outdoor recreation businesses from operating in Oregon.

Outdoor recreation is a critical part of Oregon's tourism economy, especially in rural communities. Businesses like mine provide local jobs, attract visitors, and support surrounding small businesses. SB 1593 helps preserve these benefits by creating a fair legal framework that balances consumer protection with the realities of operating high-risk recreational activities.

I respectfully urge the committee and legislature to support SB 1593. This bill offers common-sense reform that supports responsible operators, reduces unnecessary litigation, stabilizes insurance markets, and keeps Oregon's outdoor recreation industry viable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Samer Kattih  
Owner  
Imperial River Company  
Maupin, Oregon