

Submitter: Emmy Andrews

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 1593. SB 1593 is critically necessary to protect Oregon's recreation economy and the recreation experience. SB 1593's proposed changes to Oregon's waiver enforceability would reduce costs for providers and participants, create greater certainty for small organizations by promoting business continuity and insurability, and protect access and opportunity for outdoor recreation lovers and stewardship volunteers.

I also highly urge you to add an amendment to include youth waivers signed by a parent or guardian. Without such an amendment, families will not be able to recreate and participate in outdoor stewardship activities together. Also, critically, providers will not be able to serve youth participants, decimating the programs that educate youth to be the next generation of stewards of the great outdoors.

There is growing research-based evidence that experiencing nature drives pro-environmental behaviors. A 2024 systematic literature review and meta-analysis by M. Soga and K. Gaston (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0006320723005189?utm_source=chatgpt.com) demonstrated that direct experiences of nature are positively associated with a wide range of positive actions towards the natural environment, including recycling, energy conservation, green purchasing, and participating in conservation volunteering.

Outdoor recreation and environmental preservation are what make Oregon Oregon, and if youth are not exposed to what it means to recreate responsibly and be a steward of our natural environment, the culture that makes our state economically strong, beautiful, and unique is at risk of crumbling.

Please amend the bill to include youth waivers so that Oregon's beautiful environment will be preserved and enjoyed for generations to come.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.