

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

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brock Fisher, and I am the Operations Manager for Imperial River Company in Maupin, Oregon. We are a locally run business that has operated in the Deschutes River corridor for many years, providing lodging, camping, guided rafting, and outdoor experiences to visitors from across Oregon and beyond.

Maupin is a small, rural town with a population of just 448 residents. Our local economy depends heavily on summer tourism. The people who come here to raft, fish, and recreate do not just support our business, they are the economic lifeline for our entire community. Visitors support our grocery store, fly shop, restaurants, lodging providers, coffee shop and other small, locally run businesses that would not survive without seasonal recreation-based tourism.

I am writing in strong support of SB 1593.

Like many outfitters and recreation providers in Oregon, we are increasingly impacted by the state's current liability environment. The lack of clarity around enforceable liability waivers has driven insurance costs higher, reduced coverage options, and created uncertainty that makes long-term planning difficult. This environment is becoming unsustainable for responsible operators who prioritize safety and transparency but lack the financial insulation of large corporations.

SB 1593 takes a practical and inclusive approach to this problem. This bill recognizes that the liability and insurance crisis affects the entire recreation economy; outfitters, guides, climbing gyms, trail organizations, bike parks, nonprofits, volunteer groups, and conservation programs alike.

This bill does not remove accountability or weaken safety standards. It preserves protections against negligence while recognizing informed consent and personal responsibility for inherent risks, an approach that aligns Oregon with every other western state and supports a stable insurance market.

For rural communities like Maupin, SB 1593 is not an abstract policy discussion. It directly affects whether recreation providers can continue operating, whether insurance remains obtainable, and whether visitors continue to come to town. Supporting SB 1593 means supporting rural economies, local jobs, small businesses,

and the future of recreation in our great state.

I respectfully urge the committee to support SB 1593 and advance legislation that reflects the realities faced by rural communities and locally run recreation providers across Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brock Fisher