

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

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

My name is Pepi Gerald, Co-Owner of Pure Stoke Sports in Hood River, Oregon. I am writing in support of SB 1593.

As you already know by now, SB 1593's proposed changes to Oregon's waiver enforceability would reduce costs, create greater certainty for small organizations, and protect access and opportunity for outdoor recreation lovers and stewardship volunteers alike.

But, in addition, it would guarantee that legacy businesses in the recreation industry will have the ability to survive through an already challenging decade of economic and environmental challenges. It would allow resorts, outfitters, guides, schools, gyms and retail businesses to have an assurance that (under responsibly managed business practice) they would be able to not only have access to fair and available liability insurance, it would also allow them to afford actual insurance coverage, and have the ability to have options from different providers. It would also allow these businesses to fulfill customer demands and interests in ever expanding recreational opportunities and services, unhindered by the fear of unaffordable insurance or questionable insurance injury claims.

Please take a moment to realize the consequences of your actions. We are at a tipping point right now in the Oregon recreation industry, a tipping point that could see irreversible changes happen via the loss of businesses, jobs and recreational accessibility.

It is time for you to take action and to make the rules balanced in a way that values both the recreational participant and the recreational provider. Balance and fairness in the legal system is what we need and we need it right now. This cannot be delayed, or overlooked for another time. Today is the day that you can make things right again.

Sincerely
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