

Submitter: Erica Gerald

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 with an amendment to include youth waivers signed by a parent or guardian.

As a small business owner in Hood River, we are not a tour operator but we do rent out nordic gear, snowshoe equipment, etc not just to single adults but also to families and school groups. Additionally, we demo ski and windsport equipment to our customers so they can be confident about their purchases before investing a large sum of money into their gear. These are services we provide to our community and it would be devastating to the enrichment of peoples lives, both children and adults, to have them blocked because insurance is impossible to acquire and business protections are removed from ordinary negligence.

As a business, Pure Stoke is exceptionally careful to take precautions giving guests the right size and kind of gear for them but there is only so much we can do after we hand the gear over to the client. We send guests to places like Teacup Lake Nordic Club, Pocket Creek, White River, Mt Hood Meadows Nordic and the ski resort, Timberline and Ski Bowl, plus so many other resorts and outfitters in the winter. Our ski mounting risk is the highest in this situation, especially with so many people not just buying in our store but bringing in their gear that they bought online to have the bindings mounted and adjusted to their boot, height, weight, age, skier type. This is a service Oregonians of all ages need our technical, certified skills to do for them. What happens when they overestimate their skier ability? The liability waiver that they signed and filled out should protect us. However, Oregon liability is on a runaway train right now and we are concerned about moving forward with confidence until this resolution is passed.

There are also all the summer outfitters and schools to consider. It would be terrible to have these and many other places gone because land owners, club operators, schools, guides and resorts had to close down and/or gate off land.

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.

Please amend the bill to include youth waivers as we place high value on families

recreating and participating in stewardship activities together.

The beating heart of Oregon is the outdoor access and myriad of activities for all, athletes and regular people alike.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Erica Gerald