

Submitter: Ann Hanus
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,

I am writing in support of SB 1593 with an amendment to include youth waivers signed by a parent or guardian.

SB 1593's proposed changes to Oregon's waiver enforceability would reduce costs, create greater certainty for small organizations and businesses, and protect access and opportunity for outdoor recreation lovers and stewardship volunteers alike. I recognize that participating in outdoor activities involves a shared risk on both parties. I am an avid hiker, kayaker, rafter, and downhill and x-country skier.

I am concerned that Oregon is not aligned with other states regarding liability waivers. Volunteer stewardship is very important for building and maintaining trails for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Ski resorts and guides are facing spiraling insurance costs that will result in making these activists unaffordable for many Oregonians or cause the outdoor recreation businesses to close. This has been an especially bad year for ski resorts due to snow conditions for ski resorts and high liability costs.

Please amend the bill to include youth waivers so families can be involved in recreation activities together.

Thank you for your leadership and I urge your support for this bill and an amendment to include youth waivers signed by a parent or guardian.