



February 6, 2026

Re: Support for Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act (SB 1593)

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

My name is Julie Volpert, and I am an owner of Indigo Creek Outfitters, a Phoenix-based whitewater rafting and outdoor recreation company that has guided on the Rogue and Klamath Rivers for 16 years. I am also the mother of three kids, and some of our most meaningful family moments have happened on multi-day river trips — sleeping on the banks of the river, spotting wildlife as we float downstream, splashing through rapids, and watching our kids discover their own love for the outdoors.

I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 1593 because it directly affects my ability to continue offering those same kinds of experiences to hundreds of families every year.

As an outfitter, I help families plan their first rafting trip, grandparents celebrate milestone birthdays, and kids discover what they're capable of when they're challenged in a healthy, supportive environment. These trips aren't just vacations — they're formative experiences. I see it every season: kids step away from screens, families reconnect, and people leave the river with a deeper appreciation for nature and for one another.

But running a small outdoor recreation business in Oregon has become increasingly difficult under our current liability framework. Even when guests knowingly choose adventure and sign waivers acknowledging the inherent risks of outdoor recreation, today those waivers are not upheld in Oregon court. That legal uncertainty makes it harder to get affordable insurance, harder to plan long-term, and harder to keep prices accessible for families.

SB 1593 protects consumers while recognizing that participants in recreational activities willingly accept certain inherent risks. This reform would bring Oregon in line with other Western states that support both outdoor access and responsible business operations.

Oregon is an incredible place to raise kids, explore the outdoors, and build a small business — but only if the legal environment supports the people doing that work. I urge you to support SB 1593 so that companies like mine can continue helping families make lifelong memories on Oregon's rivers.

Sincerely,

Julie Volpert  
Owner, Indigo Creek Outfitters

