

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

On behalf of Scenic Adventures PNW LLC, doing business as Sasquatch Shuttle and Sasquatch Adventures, I write in strong support of Oregon Senate Bill 1593 and the critical need to preserve the enforceability of liability waivers for outfitters and guided recreation providers in Oregon.

Our company operates outdoor recreation transportation and guided experiences throughout the Columbia River Gorge and surrounding areas. Like many outfitters across Oregon, our work takes place in natural environments where some degree of inherent risk will always exist—regardless of how well an operation is managed or how robust its safety protocols may be.

SB 1593 is imperative to the continued viability of small outdoor recreation businesses in this state. When waivers are not enforceable, outfitters are exposed to unlimited liability for risks that are often entirely outside their control: weather changes, terrain conditions, wildlife encounters, and the independent actions of participants. This exposure invites frivolous and opportunistic lawsuits and, more importantly, makes obtaining or maintaining insurance increasingly difficult—if not impossible.

The insurance market has already responded to this uncertainty. Premiums skyrocket to levels that are no longer financially feasible for small businesses, or insurers simply refuse to underwrite outfitters at all. Without insurance, businesses cannot legally or responsibly operate. The practical result is not increased safety, but business closures.

Waivers do not eliminate accountability. They are conditional upon service being provided and are intended to clearly inform participants of the inherent risks involved in outdoor recreation. They do not shield outfitters from negligence, reckless conduct, or failure to follow industry best practices. Instead, they provide a balanced framework that recognizes the shared responsibility between provider and participant when engaging in activities where risk is both known and unavoidable.

It is also important to note that customers are objectively safer when using professional outfitters and guides. Outfitters invest heavily in training, equipment, emergency planning, and operational standards. Removing enforceable waivers perversely punishes those who are doing things the right way by transferring all risk onto the provider—while participants who recreate without guides assume the same risks without any professional oversight at all.

If SB 1593 does not pass, Oregon risks losing more than businesses. Skilled guides and outfitters will leave the state for jurisdictions where the legal and insurance environment allows them to operate responsibly. Tourists will follow, seeking adventure elsewhere. The economic and workforce impacts will ripple through rural communities that depend heavily on outdoor recreation tourism.

Oregon has long positioned itself as a premier destination for outdoor adventure. Maintaining enforceable waivers is not about avoiding responsibility—it is about preserving fairness, access to insurance, and the ability for small businesses to continue providing safe, professionally managed recreation experiences.

We strongly urge you to support SB 1593 and ensure that Oregon remains a place where outfitters, guides, and outdoor recreation businesses can continue to operate, employ Oregonians, and welcome visitors from around the world.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to Oregon's outdoor recreation economy.

Respectfully,

Kent Krumpschmidt

Scenic Adventures PNW LLC

DBA Sasquatch Shuttle & Sasquatch Adventures

Troutdale, Oregon—



