



February 6, 2026

RE: SB 1593 SUPPORT

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and members of the committee,

My name is Ashley Drake and I am an owner of Arrowhead River Adventures, based in Grants Pass. We take people on amazing river trips ranging from a few hours in length, to multi-day expeditions on some of Oregon's wildest rivers. **As an outfitter, we remove barriers for people who otherwise may never be able to access wild rivers on their own**, without our guides, knowledge, and equipment.

It's an incredible privilege to do this work, and I'm truly grateful every day.

We are not a corporation, we are a small, family-owned business. We run trips that we would want to take our kids on, and price our trips fairly. When we raise our prices, it doesn't go into our pockets, it goes towards our overhead expenses. Insurance is one of our largest overhead costs, and despite our safety record and consistent business operations, we are currently facing steep rate hikes dictated by the risk perception of the few insurers that will even consider working in Oregon .

We care deeply about our guests and do everything in our power to manage the inherent risk of an unpredictable outdoor environment. We inform our guests about what to expect and we disclose the possibility for injury. It is in no outfitter's interest for guests to be injured while enjoying the river. The trauma of an accident impacts the injured, other guests, AND also staff and guides. We put our reputation on the line every time we launch a trip, and we do not take it lightly. We will never compromise safety for profit.

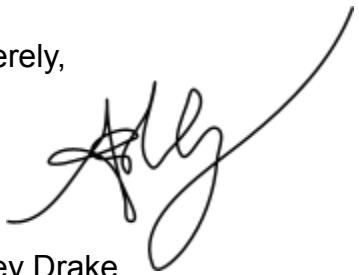
The distinction between ordinary negligence and gross negligence is too easily conflated by opponents of this bill. If we don't do our job, ignore best practices, and act unreasonably; if we put customers at unnecessary risk and the outcome is a serious injury or death - under this bill we would still be held accountable for gross negligence. This bill is not a get out of jail free card the way some have described it. Businesses will still be held accountable for wrongdoing.

What this bill protects are businesses like mine. We work in a wild and unpredictable environment, and that's what makes it amazing. **Our guests join us voluntarily, for fun, education, and authentic adventure which involves risk.** If they are

uncomfortable with the risks, they can choose not to do it. No one is being held hostage by a liability waiver, the activity is voluntary.

This bill provides common sense safeguards and creates balance between businesses and consumers in a frightfully litigious landscape. We are incredibly lucky to live and work in Oregon, and everyone should get to enjoy all the beauty and adventure our state has to offer. **Please support this bill and help small businesses like mine continue to thrive.**

Sincerely,



Ashley Drake
Owner and Guide
Arrowhead River Adventures

