



Wednesday, February 3, 2021

**Representative Evans
House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301**

Re: HB 2593 Support, Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Cards

Chair Evans, Vice-Chair Lewis, Vice-Chair Meek & Members of the Committee:

As the Director of the Regional Destination Management Organization (RDMO) for our coastal region, I am urging you to support passage of HB 2593 for everyone's sake. Generating revenue in support of the SAR equipment and training to keep visitors and residents alike safe is practical and necessary.

In fact, working with Travel Oregon as the RDMO for the Oregon Coast region, we have already dedicated nearly \$300,000 in funding, staff time and other resources for the following related projects:

Curry County Aquatic Safety Program (Sheriff's Office) – The Development of a Pilot (outdoor) Aquatic Safety Program in Curry County, with an Emphasis on Preventative Measures, Education, and Data Collection.

Tillamook County Rescue Volunteer – Video welcome by 7 Fire Chief of Tillamook County warning visitors of common hazards and offering a means to donate online. See [video here](#).


Public Safety Data Collection – Purchased [emergency reporting software](#) for Bay City, Garibaldi and Rockaway so all 7 fired districts in Tillamook County could enter data into the same reporting system in order to general one county-wide report to inform on visitor industry impacts.

Emergency Response Page – Our [industry page](#) contains facts for our partners to be award of and spread the work about

Strategic Advisory Group – Since 2014 our [SAG](#) has been one unified table that regularly convenes representation from coastal natural resource agencies (OPRD, ODFW, USFS, USFW, ODOT) to share information, resources and develop unified strategies, tactics and messaging aimed at reducing the impacts of visitation on natural resources *while also promoting public safety*.

On behalf of Oregon's coastal tourism region, I would like to state our support for HB 2593 and interest in collaborating with its eventual implementation along the Oregon Coast.

Sincerely,


Marcus Hinz, Executive Director
VisitTheOregonCoast.com

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