



City of Phoenix  
P.O. Box 330  
Phoenix, Oregon 97535

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**To: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government**

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 1593 (ORCA)**

**Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee:**

**On behalf of the City of Phoenix, Oregon, I write to express strong support for Senate Bill 1593, legislation that modernizes Oregon’s approach to recreational liability waivers and restores vital legal clarity for recreation, health, and fitness providers across our state. SB 1593 offers balanced, common-sense liability reform that is essential for preserving and expanding access to outdoor recreation, supporting local business growth, and strengthening communities like ours.**

**Phoenix sits at the heart of Southern Oregon’s rich outdoor recreation network. Alongside our neighbors in Talent, we are working to rebuild stronger following the devastating Almeda Fire of 2020. As part of this recovery, we are committed to creating opportunities that promote health, well-being, and economic vitality. Recreation businesses are critical to that vision.**

**Indigo Creek Outfitters, a valued Phoenix-based outfitter, is deeply impacted by Oregon’s current liability waiver landscape. Like many small businesses that provide guided outdoor experiences, outfitters rely on reasonable liability frameworks to secure insurance, invest confidently in their operations, and offer adventurous, safe experiences to visitors and residents alike. Without enforceable liability waivers, many businesses face spiraling costs, uncertain insurance coverage, and even the decision to relocate or close — all of which undermine Oregon’s competitiveness and economic diversity.**

**SB 1593 would align Oregon with the majority of Western states that recognize recreational liability waivers as enforceable and predictable instruments for risk management. By doing so, this bill helps:**

**Encourage business investment and expansion, particularly in recreation, tourism, and health-oriented sectors that are anchors of rural economies statewide;**

**Reduce insurance volatility and create a fair legal framework that supports both operators and participants in recreational activities; and**

**Promote healthy lifestyles and community engagement through expanded access to fitness centers, outdoor outfitters, and recreational service providers.**

**Phoenix welcomes families, visitors, and entrepreneurs seeking outstanding recreation experiences. We see firsthand how opportunities for recreation support physical and mental well-being, drive local commerce, and attract new residents and employers to our region. For communities recovering from disaster and striving to diversify their economic base, maintaining an inviting environment for recreation-focused businesses is not just beneficial — it is essential.**



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**Senate Bill 1593 represents thoughtful, balanced reform. It preserves operator accountability while ensuring that small businesses can find affordable insurance, operate sustainably, and continue offering the experiences that make Oregon an exceptional place to live, work, and visit.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for SB 1593.**

**Sincerely,**

**Al Muelhoefer**

**Mayor, City of Phoenix, Oregon**