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Tigard Area Chamber of Commerce

12345 SW Main Street

Tigard, OR 97223

February 6th 2026

Testimony in Support of SB 1593

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government,

On behalf of the **Tigard Area Chamber of Commerce** and the hundreds of businesses we represent in Tigard and across Washington County, we respectfully submit our support for SB 1593.

Our membership reflects a wide range of industries including fitness facilities, youth sports programs, outdoor recreation providers, event operators, agritourism businesses, and other community-based recreational organizations. These businesses contribute significantly to local employment, community wellness, and tourism-related economic activity.

Restoring the validity of liability waivers for ordinary negligence is a practical step that would bring Oregon in line with surrounding states. Today, Oregon businesses in recreation and fitness face higher liability insurance costs because waivers cannot be relied upon as a standard risk-management tool. These higher premiums ultimately translate to increased consumer costs, reduced access to programs, or in some cases, the loss of recreational opportunities altogether.

For communities like Tigard where parks, trails, sports programming, and community events are integral to quality of life and local economic vitality this issue has both economic and social impacts. Recreation businesses are part of the broader ecosystem that supports tourism, family activities, youth development, and small business entrepreneurship. Providing a more predictable legal environment allows these businesses to operate responsibly while continuing to serve the public.

SB 1593 does not eliminate accountability; rather, it places Oregon on equal footing with other states by allowing reasonable, clearly communicated liability waivers to function as intended. This change supports responsible business operations while helping stabilize insurance costs and preserve recreational options for Oregonians.

The Tigard Area Chamber of Commerce supports SB 1593 because it helps strengthen small businesses, supports community recreation, and improves Oregon's overall competitiveness.

Thank you for your work supporting Oregon's business community.

Sincerely,

Megan De Salvo

Chief Executive Officer

Tigard Chamber of Commerce

Building Business. Growing Together.

