February 6, 2026

Senate Committee on on Commerce and General Government

Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 1593 Relating to Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026

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

My name is Robert Hackett, and I am the Executive Director of Travel Southern Oregon, the state's official Regional DMO for Southern Oregon. In support of the many outdoor recreation businesses, from river guides to ski areas to mountain bike guides, that help define Southern Oregon as a premiere outdoor recreation destination, please accept this strong support for the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA) - SB1593.

Unlike every other West Coast state, Oregon is an outlier when it comes to recognizing liability waivers–and Oregon is in desperate need of outdoor recreation liability reform. Oregon is now one of the most difficult places to run an outdoor recreation business with insurance premiums increasing much faster than inflation, and options to even be insured are dwindling. This affects ski areas, guided outdoor recreation, outdoor events, and more.

ORCA is a simple and balanced solution that is already proven to work, and is what every other Western state already does (and Oregon used to do). That it would bring us in line with the states around us and with the federal government.

The economic impact that our outdoor recreation partners provide is significant, and I have heard directly from many operators that the looming threat of liability insurance and culpability due to Oregon's currently unsupportive legal environment is very real. I

deeply appreciate your efforts to consider SB 1593, and I urge you to support its passage to support our outdoor recreation partners across the state.

Sincerely,

Robert Hackett
Executive Director, Travel Southern Oregon
106 Talent Ave #2, Talent, OR 97540
541.326.2640
bob@southernoregon.org