



Date: February 9, 2026

Name: Scott Larson, President & CEO, Visit Central Oregon

Bill Number and Committee: SB 1593 – Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Scott Larson and I am the President & CEO of Visit Central Oregon. I appreciate the opportunity to convey my support for SB 1593.

In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be home to Mt. Bachelor, one of the premier ski resorts in the west, along with many other resorts, guides, and outfitters. These businesses are vital to the very fabric of Central Oregon. In addition to driving our outdoor recreation economy, the primary reason for over 90% of our visitors at any given time of year, these businesses also employ thousands of jobs and small businesses.

Outdoor sports involve inherent risks. Unfortunately, Oregon's court system has weakened the enforceability of waivers, which has increased the risks placed on large and small outdoor recreation businesses and resulted in an insurance crisis. This puts all businesses at risk, and not only harms them but harms access to the outdoors for everyone, something so many of us love about Oregon.

We strongly support SB 1583, which seeks to restore reasonable and commonly accepted waiver protections while maintaining accountability for gross negligence. Please help us address this crisis in Oregon so that we can create a fair environment for outdoor recreation businesses and ensure that all visitors and Oregonians alike will have safe access to the outdoors into the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to convey our position.

Sincerely,

Scott Larson
President & CEO
Visit Central Oregon