

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and members of the committee,

We are writing to you from Peak Tours and Transit LLC, a family-owned sightseeing tour operator here in Oregon. Last year, we served over 10,000 visitors to Oregon. We are writing in strong support of the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026, SB 1593.

Tourism is not merely recreation. It drives economic growth. It creates jobs. It enhances cultural exchange. It improves public spaces. When visitors have exceptional experiences, they stay longer, spend more, return, and tell others to come. By engaging directly with visitors and sharing with them the beauty of our state, we actively drive more tourism to Oregon.

But we are under increasing pressure.

This year alone, our insurance costs rose by over 35%, despite having zero claims, no incidents, no lawsuits, no losses. We believe these higher premiums are driven largely by the uncertainty surrounding Oregon's recreation liability environment.

ORCA is a simple and fair solution. It does not remove accountability. It simply allows adults who voluntarily participate in recreation to acknowledge ordinary risks and release operators from ordinary negligence.

We respectfully urge your support. Please champion this bill, which supports the businesses that help get people outside and help Oregon thrive.

Thank you,

Heather & Damon Kupper
Portland, Oregon