

Submitter: Tom Scarborough
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or SB1593
Topic:

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

My name is Tom Scarborough I am a resident of Grants Pass, and an outdoor guide taking guests from all over the country and the world to public lands here in Oregon. Specifically I work as a manager and river guide for ROW Oregon LLC, dba ROW Adventures, an outfitter in Oregon.

I strongly support the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA) - SB1593.

Outdoor recreation is a huge part of the Oregon economy and the reason why many of us live here. And the outdoor industry is full of small businesses.

However, 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 - insurance premiums are 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.

This issue has been getting worse for 10 years, and we are now at a tipping point. This legislation is coming just in time.

Thank you so much for championing this bill. It will help Oregon make a more business friendly atmosphere for many businesses, but will especially allow small family owned businesses like my employer be able to keep their doors open in Oregon.

Sincerely,

-Tom Scarborough
Resident, Grants Pass, Oregon

and

Manager for ROW Adventures on Oregon's Rogue River