



February 6, 2026

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1593

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

My name is Lisa Dunagan, and I serve as Secretary of the Phoenix Oregon Chamber of Commerce. On behalf of our members and the broader business community, I write in support of Senate Bill 1593. This bill represents an important step toward creating a more stable, competitive, and business-friendly environment for Oregon's small enterprises—especially those in recreation, fitness, and tourism.

Phoenix is a small town with a big vision. Following the devastation of the Almeda Fire, our community has been working hard to rebuild not just structures, but our local economy. Small businesses are the backbone of that recovery. We are focused on attracting and supporting enterprises that promote health, outdoor activity, and quality of life—businesses that give people a reason to visit, invest, and stay in our town.

However, Oregon's current recreational liability framework creates real barriers for exactly the kinds of businesses we want to grow. When liability waivers are unpredictable or unenforceable, insurance becomes harder to obtain, costs rise, and entrepreneurs think twice about opening or expanding here. This uncertainty discourages innovation and investment, particularly in recreation and fitness industries that are essential to rural and small-town economic development.

SB 1593 offers thoughtful, balanced reform. It protects consumers while recognizing that participants in recreational activities accept certain inherent risks. By bringing Oregon in line with other Western states, this bill would improve our competitiveness and send a clear signal that Oregon supports responsible businesses that promote wellness, tourism, and outdoor access.

From the Chamber's perspective, this is not just about one industry—it's about creating the conditions for entrepreneurship, job creation, and long-term economic resilience. Businesses like outfitters, gyms, climbing gyms, youth sports organizations, and wellness providers all contribute to a vibrant local economy. SB 1593 helps ensure they can operate sustainably and continue serving our communities.

The Phoenix Chamber of Commerce strongly urges your support of SB 1593. It is an investment in Oregon's small businesses, our rural economies, and the healthy, active communities we are all working to build.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dunagan
Secretary, Phoenix Oregon Chamber of Commerce