

RE: SB 1593 SUPPORT

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

My name is Michele Margherita and I own Triangle Wine Country Tours based in Portland

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

We are a small business, just me and my husband, and we run wine tours from Portland to the Willamette Valley. We enjoy showing tourists the beauty of Oregon's wine country and are an integral part of the tourism business here. Wine is a big draw for visitors and our business allows guests to enjoy tasting at wineries without worries about drinking and driving. Plus we support small wineries here that make our wine region so popular.

We are required by PBOT to hold liability insurance and commercial auto insurance in order to be certified to pick up guests in Portland. Our insurance rates go up every year, yet competition does not allow us to increase our prices every year. Also not all guides adhere to the strict guidelines for insurance and vehicle safety that we do. Rising costs and fear of legal issues are a concern for us if this bill doesn't pass to give us some relief from liability concerns.

Unenforceable waivers increase our costs of doing business, and decreases affordability for our guests and reduces our ability to attract customers

I am grateful that this bill is finally here to protect us from years of increased costs, now is the time to put us back in line with WA and CA on this issue. This simple solution would help us continue to operate and support guides like us to help visitors enjoy the outdoors in our beautiful state.

I support the state to conduct an economic study to quantify our outdoor industry.

Thank you for your help in getting this bill passed, let's get more people outdoors to enjoy Oregon!

Michele Margherita
Owner Triangle Wine Country Tours