



Feb 6th 2026 - RE: SB 1593 SUPPORT (ORCA)

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

This is Pete Wallstrom with Momentum River Expeditions, and we strongly support the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA) – SB 1593. Thank you for tackling this issue.

As the committee knows, Oregon is an outlier when it comes to recognizing liability waivers. Oregon is now one of the most difficult places to run an outdoor recreation business — insurance premiums and legal costs are increasing much faster than inflation, and options for obtaining insurance are dwindling. This is more than a ski area issue; they were the canary in the coal mine. This also affects guided outdoor recreation, outdoor events, gyms, and more.

Outdoor recreation is a huge part of Oregon's economy and one of the main reasons many of us live here. The outdoor industry is largely made up of small businesses. If we do not make the common-sense changes that ORCA proposes and align with other states, recreation as we know it in Oregon will only be for rich people — people that can afford the prices we will have to charge to deal with lawyers and finding insurance.

The current situation in Oregon is extremely out of balance, and it is not good for:

- Guides and small businesses
- Oregon's wild areas and access to the outdoors
- Oregon's economy
- Consumers
- What it means to live in Oregon

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

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). One that balances inherent risk and people's ability to seek compensation for an accident.

We would also like to mention that we strongly support giving parents the choice and more options to introduce their children to a wider range of outdoor activities by including parental waivers for minors. This would bring Oregon in line with the majority of surrounding states and would help get kids off screens.

We also strongly support conducting an economic study to better quantify Oregon's large and sustainable outdoor industry.

Once again, ORCA is a simple, balanced, and effective solution that has proven to work for many decades and would bring us in line with every Western State and the federal government.

Thank you so much for championing this bill. We are so excited to get through this time and just get back to showing people Oregon's incredible wild places.

Kind regards,

Pete Wallstrom
Owner | Guide

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