

SB 1593 SUPPORT testimony
2026-02-07

ATTN: Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee—
FROM: Marty Giles, *bda* Wavecrest Discoveries.

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

Wavecrest Discoveries is an independent nature guiding service on the southern Oregon Coast that for 30 years has reconnected people to the outdoors through local tours, activities, short programs, and written materials.

The overhead for such businesses includes licensing and permitting, user fees, and the insurance **required** to use public land for such services. In the last few years insurance companies have been increasing their administration demands as they've increased their fees; unenforceable liability waivers would mean the required insurance would become unaffordable—and perhaps even unavailable.

Know that outfitter/guide services benefit more than the immediate businesses that provide them as they enrich tourism experiences that lengthen visitation and increase spending.

Most important, our services are effective ways for people, both visitors and residents, to learn and appreciate natural history, acquire safe and responsible outdoor skills, and develop good stewardship of our rich and varied natural resources. (And, yes, we need more research on these values of outdoor recreation.)

Please help Oregon improve our outdoor recreation liability issue with the ORCA Act (SB1593).

Your addressing this concern is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



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