

Submitter: Margaret VanPatten
On Behalf Of: She Moves Mountains LLC
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or SB1593
Topic:

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

My name is Margaret VanPatten, and I am with She Moves Mountains. I strongly support the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA) — SB 1593.

We provide guided outdoor experiences that help people build competence, confidence, and community outside. Guiding supports local jobs and small businesses, and it expands access to the physical and mental health benefits of recreation for residents and visitors alike.

Right now, rising insurance premiums and legal costs are putting enormous pressure on recreation providers. Many of us are operating with a real fear that we won't be able to secure coverage at all if Oregon doesn't fix its recreation liability standard. The lack of enforceable waivers drives up costs, lowers wages across the industry, and limits access and affordability for the very communities we want to serve.

ORCA is a simple, balanced solution that is already proven to work. It would put Oregon back in line with the states around us and with federal standards—bringing Oregon out of its current position as the Western outlier. Importantly, it restores a workable framework while still preserving accountability for conduct beyond ordinary negligence.

I also support the bill's direction for the Oregon Business Development Department to conduct an economic study to better quantify Oregon's large and sustainable outdoor industry and inform future policy.

Thank you for championing SB 1593. I appreciate your leadership, and I'm eager to keep helping people get outside safely and affordably.

Respectfully,
Margaret VanPatten
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