

Submitter: Niki Volz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

My name is Niki Volz And I an owner and operator of A Vineyard Wine Tour.

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

My solo business brings in over 250 people per year who are visiting Oregon for a wine tour and spending their tourism dollars locally in Yamhill County where I live and operate. As a life long Oregonian, I am eager to make recommendations for other outdoor recreation spots in Oregon (there's so many!) so they head home with a snapshot and positive memories of visiting our beautiful State.

The overall rising costs of our economy, coupled with the outrageous insurance costs have made it difficult for me to turn a meaningful net positive on my business. I absolutely love Oregon and love being a conduit for visitor's authentic Oregon experiences and hope to do so for years to come. A large percent of my overhead is to insurance because there is only ONE insurance company that offers commercial insurance for my particular business model. That is a monopoly and not healthy. There needs to be competitive rates and OPTIONS. I am concerned about continuing my business if we continue down this path and Oregon's Recreation Liability issue is not fixed.

I've been in business since 2023 and have seen the costs rise without my having done anything to cause the rise. This is unfair and the 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! This would bring us in line with the states around us and with the federal government. Why would we not do this?

Thank you for taking the time to read. The tourism industry literally puts food on the table for my family. I appreciate the committee for caring about us Oregonians who provide such necessary services and for supporting this bill.

Cheers,

Niki Volz