

Submitter: Scott Heesacker  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General  
Government  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

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

My name is Scott Heesacker, and I own/operate NW Jet Boat Charter.

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

NW Jet Boat Charter provides thrilling and unique outdoor experiences on the water, bringing joy to countless residents and tourists while supporting the local economy. Guiding is not just a business; it's an essential part of our community's identity and livelihood.

However, our industry is currently under immense pressure from rapidly rising insurance and legal costs. Frankly, there is a legitimate and growing fear that without a fix to Oregon's Recreation Liability issue, we may not be able to obtain necessary insurance in the future. The current lack of enforceable waivers directly increases our operating costs, which in turn limits access and affordability for the public we serve.

The Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA) is a simple, proven, and balanced solution. It would align Oregon's recreation liability laws with what every other Western state and the federal government already does, bringing common sense and stability back to our industry. This is the most crucial point for the long-term viability of Oregon's outdoor recreation businesses.

I also want to quickly voice my support for the state to conduct an economic study to better quantify Oregon's large and sustainable outdoor industry, which provides so much value to our state.

Thank you very much for championing this vital bill. We are excited about the prospect of continuing to get people outside and sharing the beauty of Oregon's waterways safely and affordably.

Sincerely,

Scott Heesacker  
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NW Jet Boat Charter.com