



DISCOVER WHAT'S AROUND THIS BEND!

61535 S. Hwy. 97 #13 Bend, OR 97702 • (541) 389-8359
www.wanderlusttours.com

February 7th, 2026

Re: Support for Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act (SB 1593)

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

My name is Jared Garfield, and I am an owner of Wanderlust Tours. Wanderlust Tours is a Central Oregon based guide company that has been operating since 1993. I was fortunate in growing up to be able to spend a lot of time outside. It helped me to learn important life skills and shape me into the person I am today, and above all else it created a deep connection and appreciation for the incredible resources we have in our wild spaces.

I'm writing to show my support for Senate Bill 1593 because it directly affects my ability to operate a company that aims to inspire thousands of people every year to find the same connection and appreciation nature as I have. Wanderlust Tours exists to inspire our guests and vibrantly share the natural and cultural history of Oregon in order to instill appreciation and protection of the environment. There are many barriers for people to make it into the outdoors, but as a company we hope to eliminate those barriers and offer all guests a fun and exciting experience that is appropriate for them. No matter who you are or your background, we can find a way to create lasting memories that inspire you to continue spending time outside for years to come.

Oregon needs to pass legislation to help protect small businesses and ensure access to outdoor recreation for everyone. Even when guests choose to voluntarily participate in a recreational activity with inherent risks, guide outfitters like Wanderlust Tours, are ultimately responsible for any issues that arise due to the lack of enforceable liability waivers. With that uncertainty, we have seen prices of insurance go up significantly because options are so limited. To paraphrase the letter we just received from our insurance company last week, the costs will be increasing significantly again and the coverage will get worse. In addition, some landowners or clients are requiring increased coverage limits. We have had to turn away clients or stop running tours in some areas because we would see an increase of ~40% to our premium to meet these new limit requirements which are becoming more common. We should not be turning away business due to large insurance premium increases for something that has not happened in the past.

There are many reasons why it can be difficult to operate a small business, common sense liability framework should not be one of them. SB1593 puts Oregon in line with other western states that support local businesses. We would greatly appreciate your support of SB1593.

Sincerely,

Jared Garfield