

*RE: SB 1593 SUPPORT*

*Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and members of the committee,*

*My name is Todd Gilstrap and I own/operate 2 different outdoor recreation companies in the state of Oregon, Oregon River Experiences and NW Discoveries. With activities ranging from whitewater rafting, hiking and winter activities. Most locations that we operate in are considered rural and the business of recreation brings an economic benefit to these areas. As an outfitter, it is a scary world to operate in knowing that in Oregon we don't have the same protections from liability waivers that almost every other western state uses. If outdoor recreation is such an important industry for Oregon, it is not showing that and the current situation of things will put stranglehold on the industry.*

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

*Outdoor recreation is a huge part of the Oregon economy and the reason why many of us live here. And the outdoor industry is full of small businesses.*

*However, unlike every other West Coast state, Oregon is an outlier when it comes to recognizing liability waivers and Oregon is in desperate need of outdoor recreation liability reform. Oregon is now one of the most difficult places to run an outdoor recreation business - insurance premiums are increasing much faster than inflation and options to even be insured are dwindling. This affects ski areas, guided outdoor recreation, outdoor events, and more.*

*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). That it would bring us in line with the states around us and with the federal government.*

*This issue has been getting worse for 10 years, and we are now at a tipping point. This legislation is coming just in time.*

*Thank you so much for championing this bill.*

Todd Gilstrap

OutRecX LLC