



Date: February 5, 2021

To: Representative Paul Evans, Chair and Members of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management

From: Greg Astley, Director of Government Affairs
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association

Subject: HB 2593 Support, Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Cards

Chair Evans, Vice-Chair Lewis, Vice-Chair Meek & Members of the Committee:

Oregon is a special place with an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities for Oregonians and visitors alike. Whether it's hiking in the Willamette Mountains, skiing on Mt. Bachelor, or rafting the Rogue River, there are activities appealing to people of all ages, abilities, and interests.

The Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association (ORLA) is proud to be part of the diverse group of organizations who promote responsible recreation in Oregon. Working with organizations like the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Travel Oregon, Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNSSA) and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA) to name a few, ORLA is pleased to support the creation of the search and rescue card program as outlined in HB 2593.

As the COVID-19 pandemic restricted indoor recreation and the ability for people to gather at local restaurants, bars, gyms and fitness centers, outdoor recreation became even more important and essential to the mental and physical health and well-being of Oregonians.

Despite efforts to educate intrepid outdoor enthusiasts and even for those who are prepared for uncertainty of outdoor recreation and the elements, accidents happen and there is occasionally a need for search and rescue of individuals or groups.

Having an additional source of funding for these search and rescue efforts, supported by those who enjoy Oregon's splendor, will be critical to help ensure the efforts of those who are risking their lives to save others.

ORLA will continue to partner with OSSA and OEM and others to help promote this program once in place. We encourage your support and passage of HB 2593.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Astley", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Greg Astley, Director of Government Affairs
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association