

Public Testimony in Support of the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act (ORCA)

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Eric Sastrawidjaya, and I am here to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1593, the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act.

For my family, recreation is not just something we do — it is how we live. We snowboard together in the winter, hike Oregon's trails in the warmer months, and spend our summers camping in the open spaces that make this state so special. These experiences are where we build memories, teach our kids resilience and respect for nature, and connect with a broader community that shares these values.

The joy, health, and sense of belonging we experience as a family depend on access to safe, affordable recreational opportunities. But that access is increasingly at risk. Because Oregon no longer recognizes basic liability waivers, recreation providers are struggling to obtain insurance, costs are rising, and some businesses and nonprofits are being forced to close. When that happens, families like mine lose more than activities — we lose community, connection, and opportunity.

Every other Western state has found a way to balance accountability with access by recognizing liability waivers. Oregon's current legal framework puts us out of alignment and places an unnecessary burden on recreation providers and the families who rely on them. ORCA offers a thoughtful, balanced solution that restores legal clarity, stabilizes insurance markets, and keeps recreation accessible while maintaining safety and responsibility.

Recreation supports not only our physical and mental health, but also local economies and the social fabric of our communities. When families are priced out or options disappear, the impacts ripple far beyond the trailhead or ski area.

ORCA matters because it protects what makes Oregon Oregon. It helps ensure that families like mine can continue to snowboard, hike, camp, and gather in the open spaces that sustain our joy, our health, and our sense of belonging.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 1593 and take an important step toward preserving affordable, accessible recreation for Oregon families and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.