

February 7, 2026
RE: SB 1593 Support

To Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and members of the committee:

Thank you for taking the time to hear this bill. I am writing in support of SB 1593 as a ski enthusiast, and regular season passholder since 2020. For background about myself, I am an engineer at Intel Corporation and a critical part of my job is risk assessment. I have therefore outlined key risks for the State of Oregon should this bill fail.

First and foremost, if Oregon ski areas are unable to obtain insurance, the cost of passes and tickets will become prohibitively expensive for most users, and will ultimately result in the resorts ceasing operation. This will have a catastrophic impact to the economy. In 2023, Oregon collected \$651 million in taxes from tourism lodging. While a majority of this is likely from summer activities, winter is still a contributor. I would estimate that the loss of ski and snowboard tourism would result in a loss of \$100-300 million in taxes per year. Every ski gear shop will eventually close or move out of state. This would include Next Adventure, Evo, PTO Ski & Snowboard, Hillcrest Ski & Sports, The Mountain Shop, Powder House, and more. The income tax revenue from these shops will disappear.

Mountain towns and communities, such as Government Camp, would essentially be gutted. While there is traffic through Government Camp in the summer, it pales in comparison to winter. It would also decrease further, if the ski areas are shut down and therefore do not have summer hours. All of the restaurants, bars, hotels, and rental homes will be impacted. I suspect many would close, and in a worst-case-scenario, the now-vibrant community becomes little more than a gas station and rest area.

I estimate that there are probably around 100,000 season passholders in the state. Of these passholders, I estimate that up to 10% could relocate out of Oregon in order to be closer to ski areas. Assuming an average income of \$100,000 per year for skiers, and ~\$8000 in yearly tax contributions, this will result in a loss of \$80 million.

Without operational ski areas, more skiers will venture into the backcountry. Many of the new backcountry users may not have the abilities, avalanche safety training, and outdoor survival skills in order to be safe. Currently, there are ~25 search and rescue missions on Mt Hood per year, and in 2025, seven skiers lost their lives in Oregon. Expect these numbers to double or triple. *In short, if SB 1593 fails, more people are going to die.* The tax payer cost of a typical search and rescue mission is \$5000-10,000, and up to \$200,000. Assuming search and rescues going from 25/year to 75/year, with one or two missions requiring extra resources, this is an additional loss of \$250,000 yearly.

To sum up: \$150,000,000 loss of lodging revenue + \$80,000,000 income tax loss + \$250,000 in S&R missions = **\$230,230,000 loss of tax revenue for the State of Oregon** (not including loss of income taxes from businesses that close – it was difficult to calculate)

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Christiana Bockisch, PhD