

Dear:

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

My name is Matthew Price and I am the owner of Lower Deschutes Outfitters. I am writing to express my strong support for the **Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA) — SB 1593.**

Our Business and Community

At **Lower Deschutes Outfitters**, we specialize in providing outdoor experiences that connect people to the natural beauty of Oregon. Guiding is more than just a job for us; it is the heartbeat of our local economy. We bring visitors into our rural communities, support local gear shops and hospitality businesses, and foster a deep appreciation for our state's environment. Without a healthy guiding industry, our community loses a vital economic engine and a primary gateway to the outdoors.

The Impact of Rising Costs and Legal Risks

Currently, our industry is under immense pressure. Rising insurance premiums and skyrocketing legal costs are no longer just "the cost of doing business"—they are becoming an existential threat. My greatest fear is that if Oregon's recreation liability issues are not addressed, we will eventually become uninsurable.

The current lack of enforceable waivers in Oregon directly leads to:

- **Increased overhead costs** that threaten our stability.
- **Lower wages** for our hardworking guides.
- **Limited access and affordability** for the public, as these costs are inevitably passed down to the consumer.

A Proven, Balanced Solution

The most important point I can convey is that ORCA is a simple and balanced solution that is already proven to work. This legislation is not an experiment; it is exactly what every other Western state already does, and it is what Oregon successfully did for years.

By passing SB 1593, you would bring Oregon back in line with our neighbors and the federal government. Our current legal environment makes us an outlier in the West, and it is time we provide our outdoor industry with the same stability found in Idaho, Washington, and California.

Quantifying Our Industry

I also want to quickly mention my support for the state to conduct an economic study. Oregon's outdoor industry is large, sustainable, and vital, yet we lack the comprehensive data to fully quantify its impact. This study would be an essential tool for future planning and growth.

I want to finish by **strongly thanking the committee** for championing this bill. Your leadership on this issue gives us hope that we can continue to operate safely and sustainably. We are incredibly excited to keep getting people outside and sharing the best of Oregon with the world.

Sincerely,

Matthew Price

Owner
Lower Deschutes Outfitters