



February 7, 2026

Submitter: Peter Grubb

Committee: Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB 1593

RE: Strong support for the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act (SB 1593)

I am Peter Grubb, Founder & President of ROW Adventures and ROW Oregon LLC. We are a whitewater rafting, fishing and cycling tour business that has been operating in Oregon since 1980. Our company employs 16 seasonal guides for our rafting and cycling tours in Oregon, most of whom are Oregon residents. As well, our full-time manager resides in Grants Pass. Our business supports a myriad of other businesses from whom we purchase supplies, food and services to conduct our trips.

We have a high stake in the outcome of the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA), SB 1593, and fully support this bill. While our guides are well-trained, professional and do all they can to mitigate risk, there is inherent risk in the activities we offer. Trips that float wild rivers in remote locations attract thousands of people to Oregon every year, to experience the beauty of the State, and people understand there are risks in this activity. Likewise, cyclists come to ride the roads and trails of Oregon, also understanding the risks involved. Yet in the current state of law in Oregon, the liability waivers that are essential to the survival of our business are largely unenforceable, due in large part to the Oregon Supreme Court's decision in *Bagley v. Mt. Bachelor*. Oregon outfitters, guides and recreation businesses need to protection afforded by enforceable liability waivers.

Surely the committee recognizes the importance of the tourism economy to Oregon, and particularly the outdoor recreation economy that benefits many small towns in the state. Towns such as Grants Pass, Maupin, Medford, Jordan Valley, Bend, Ashland, Joseph, Enterprise and many others depend on tourism and particularly the services and trips offered by outfitters and guides. Our businesses are all threatened by the current legal situation as it is difficult to find insurance, and a single lawsuit could force the closure of a small business like ours. This in turn would dissuade the insurance companies even more and would also make Oregon an unattractive location for any outdoor recreation business, existing or potentially new.

Many other states have already corrected this situation, and we are asking that Oregon become aligned with the wisdom of states such as Wyoming, Washington, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, California, Arizona and Alaska. Like Oregon, guided outdoor recreation is a big part of their economy, and is especially important to small, rural communities.

Our guests (customers) are fully aware of the risks associated with the trips they choose to participate in. We explain in detail what these risks are, and people still want to go because being in nature and wild places is essential to their well-being. The service we provide literally changes lives and we do that within a framework of managing the risks involved in the activities, whether that be rafting, kayaking, cycling or hiking.

For the sake of Oregon's tourism economy, the many jobs that tourism supports and the continued viability of outfitters, guides and the many businesses that our businesses support, I urge you to support SB 1593.

Like many in this business, I've spent my life devoted to providing life-enriching experiences for people from all walks of life. Our trips allow those without the skills, knowledge or equipment to explore the outdoors on their own, to be able to get outside, float rivers, cast a line, ride a bike on paths they don't know and hike mountain trails.

Thank you for your wisdom and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter H. Grubb', written in a cursive style.

Peter H Grubb

Founder & President

ROW Inc. / Member, ROW Oregon LLC