

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

My name is Joe Ricci and I am with Oregon Outfitters and Guides Association, Wild Rogue Outfitters Association, and Orange Torpedo Trips.

I strongly support the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA)-SB1593. I started my guide journey in the summer of 2019 with Orange Torpedo Trips, expecting it to be a one-off summer job that I would look back on fondly. What I found was something so much more. I found a deep adoration for the outdoors and an appreciation for the state of Oregon as a whole. I came back year after year and only fell more in love with the river, the community, and the access to nature as a whole. I met people along the way who I would call my brothers and sisters, people who have had a profound impact on my development as a person and as a guide. As a guide I have seen the impact I have been able to have on others as well, by showing, not just telling people about the history of the state, seeing the smiles day after day, and feeling the emulating sense of confidence someone has after conquering their biggest fear. These are all things I will never take for granted and to know that because of rising insurance and legal costs these things may not be possible scares me. Knowing that Oregonians and others will not be able to experience their state to the fullest extent because of the liability issues that this state has been facing the last ten years is a bleak future.

ORCA (SB-1593) is an important and simple solution to the issues outdoor recreation is facing. It puts our state in alignment with every other western US state (Washington, Idaho, California and more), and with the federal government as well. This isn't a blanket coverage solution that swings the pendulum in the other direction, but it puts everything in balance as it was before 2014 when an Oregon Supreme Court ruled that liability waivers were not enforceable in the state. This is a \$17 billion industry that is on the precipice of collapse, it is also what makes the state of Oregon special.

We believe that it is also important for the state to conduct an economic study so that oregonians can be better aware and informed about one of the larger industries in our state.

Again I want thank each member of the committee for taking the time and effort to champion this ever so important bill,

Sincerely yours,

Joe Ricci