

February 8, 2026

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

My name is Alan J. Borges, and I am the owner of Alan J Borges Guide Service. I am writing today in strong support of the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA) – SB1593.

I have built my business around helping people experience Oregon's outdoors safely and responsibly. Guiding is not just my livelihood; it is a service that connects visitors and local families to the rivers, landscapes, and traditions that define our communities. The work we do supports rural economies, fosters stewardship, and keeps Oregon's outdoor heritage alive.

In recent years, rising insurance premiums and escalating legal exposure have created real uncertainty for guides and outfitters. Many of us worry that, without a fix to Oregon's recreation liability laws, we may soon be unable to secure insurance at all. The lack of enforceable liability waivers drives up costs, reduces wages, and ultimately limits access and affordability for the public. These pressures are not theoretical—they affect our ability to operate day to day.

ORCA offers a simple, balanced, and proven solution. It restores the same common-sense liability framework that every other Western state already uses—and that Oregon itself used to follow. Aligning Oregon with the states around us and with federal standards is the most important step we can take to stabilize our industry, protect small businesses, and keep outdoor recreation accessible for everyone.

I also support the proposal for the state to conduct an economic study to better quantify the size and long-term value of Oregon's outdoor recreation sector. Understanding the true scale of this industry will help guide smart policy decisions in the years ahead.

Thank you for championing this bill and for recognizing how vital outdoor recreation is to Oregon's identity and economy. I am grateful for your leadership, and I look forward to continuing to help people experience the best of Oregon's outdoors.

Respectfully,

Alan J. Borges

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