



February 6, 2026

Re: Support for Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026

The following Oregon conservation and recreation organizations are pleased to submit this letter to voice our strong support of recreation liability waiver reform.

As land stewards, conservationists, recreation providers, and nonprofit advocates, recreational liability protections are critical to fulfilling our respective missions. **SB 1593/ HB 4071** would realign Oregon's policy with all other Western states, and passage will provide important security for our organizations and hundreds more small nonprofit organizations and recreation outfits around our state.

With liability waiver reform, we seek to protect Oregon's conservation organizations and recreation providers (many being one and the same) by reducing costs, creating greater certainty for small organizations, and protecting access and opportunity for recreationists and volunteers alike. As conservation and recreation organizations, we have seen our insurance premiums significantly increase or have seen our insurance options dwindle. Recreational liability protections enhance public safety by ensuring that outfitters, volunteer coordinators, and other trained professionals are able to operate in and continue to effectively steward the natural spaces that make our beloved state so unique.

Oregon's conservation organizations, volunteer land stewards, and recreationists engage in this work because we love and care for our lands, and we need the support of lawmakers and the public to continue to thrive, and in some cases survive. Liability waivers need to matter again, as they did before *Bagley vs. Mt. Bachelor* and as they do in all other Western states. **SB 1593/ HB 4071** is a critical step towards a more certain future for us all.

We believe that one of the best ways for Oregon residents to become advocates for our lands is to get outside to enjoy and steward our incredible natural spaces. Facilitating recreation and volunteer experiences creates opportunities for formative adventures, empowers environmental stewardship, and develops broad community support for our work. Reforming Oregon's recreation liability waiver standards ensures our recreation and restoration programs remain affordable, accessible, and legally sustainable across the state.

The survival of these programs and our work across our collective communities depends on sensible reform of Oregon's liability waiver system. Without this reform, insurance costs will become untenable and TRK and other outdoor recreation and stewardship organizations will be forced to either increase their costs to participants or eliminate certain recreation and volunteer stewardship opportunities altogether.

SB 1593/ HB 4071 represents a balanced, reasonable framework that restores enforceable waivers while upholding operator responsibility. It also initiates a long-overdue study into sustainable funding for outdoor recreation—a necessary step for every community that depends on accessible parks and nature access points, and a clean and healthy environment in Oregon.

Thank you,

Stephanie Noll, Oregon Trails Coalition

Bonnie Anderson, Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

Glenn Fee, Tualatin Riverkeepers

Kim Silva, Friends of Outdoor School

Emily Cain, Greater Hells Canyon Council

Frances Oyung, Rogue Riverkeeper

Steve Kruger, Trailkeepers of Oregon

Michael Dotson, KS Wild

Kevin Gorman, Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Ryan Houston, Oregon Natural Desert Association

Jennifer Wilde, Adventures Without Limits

Kim McCarrel, Oregon Equestrian Trails

Caroline Fitchett, Salmonberry Trail Foundation

Torsten Heycke, Ashland Woodlands Trails Association

Talaina King, Cape Perpetua Collaborative

Steve Roti, Meissner Nordic Ski Club

Willie Levenson, Human Access Project

Natasha Bellis, Deschutes Land Trust

Drew Honzel, Klamath Trails Alliance

Gabe Sheoships, Friends of Tryon Creek

Emmy Andrews, Central Oregon Trail Alliance

Katie Ryan, The Wetlands Conservancy

Lisa Olivares, Northwest Trail Alliance

Karsyn Kendrick, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

Tara Wilkinson, The Intertwine Alliance

Jeff Parker, Northwest Youth Corps

Michelle Emmons, Willamette Riverkeeper

Millie Osguthorpe, Discover Klamath

Yashar Vasef, Friends of Trees

Kathleen Ackley, Wallowa Land Trust

Jessica Green, Portland Parks Foundation

Tara Laidlaw, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy