



February 9, 2026

Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government

RE: SB 1593 – SUPPORT

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (“Friends”) is a non-profit organization with approximately 4,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (“Gorge” or “National Scenic Area”).

Friends supports SB 1593 which would put Oregon’s recreation waiver laws in line with neighboring states and allow waivers to be enforced in court. As a non-profit organization that hosts outdoor programs and stewardship events, Friends relies on waivers to protect the organization and reduce liability risk. This bill would provide greater certainty for our organization and help preserve the public programs that are central to our organization’s work.

We respectfully request that the bill be amended to include youth waivers in the final version. Friends offers many youth education programs and welcomes families to participate in our hikes and stewardship events together. Adding waivers for minors to this legislation would further support organizations like ours that wish to continue programs where we connect youth of many ages to Oregon’s incredible landscapes.

Please vote yes on SB 1593 and pass this legislation during the session.

Sincerely,
Madison Kenney
Advocacy & Policy Coordinator