



February 9, 2026

Chair Meek and Vice-Chair Drazan
Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Meek and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber of Commerce and our 1,650 business members, I appreciate the opportunity to express our strong support for SB 1593. In Central Oregon, the recreation economy is a critical sector that supports thousands of jobs and contributes significantly to our region's vitality.

The Bend Chamber represents a broad cross-section of employers, including recreation providers, outfitters, ski areas, gyms, guides, tourism-related businesses, nonprofits, and small family-owned enterprises. These organizations rely on a stable liability framework to operate, maintain affordable insurance, and provide safe and accessible recreation opportunities. When providers cannot secure coverage or manage liability exposure, the impacts extend beyond business. This crisis reduces access to the outdoors and threatens a key part of Oregon's identity and quality of life.

SB 1593 is a critical step toward addressing this problem. The bill restores reasonable and commonly accepted waiver protections by allowing enforceable liability waivers for adult participants for ordinary negligence, while maintaining accountability for gross negligence and misconduct. This balanced approach protects consumers, restores predictability for providers, and helps Oregon remain competitive with neighboring western states.

We urge the Legislature to take action now to address this critical issue. Passage of SB 1593 will help create a fair environment for outdoor recreation businesses and ensure Oregonians and visitors continue to have safe and affordable access to recreation opportunities into the future.

Supporting policies that strengthen Oregon's business climate is a guiding principle for the Bend Chamber during the 2026 session. We respectfully urge your support for SB 1593.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam K. Oden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



Sara Odendahl
CEO
Bend Chamber