



Date: February 9, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government

Bill: SB 1593 - Support

Chair Meek, Vice Chair Drazan, and members of the Commerce and General Government Committee:

My name is Christina Rehklau, and I am the Executive Director of Visit Corvallis, the destination marketing organization for Corvallis. Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Senate Bill 1593.

Across Oregon, access to recreation is not only part of our quality of life but also a critical driver of our visitor economy and a lifeline for many small businesses. Outfitters, guides, recreation facilities and event operators play an essential role in attracting visitors, supporting local jobs, and sustaining communities large and small.

These businesses also operate in environments that involve inherent risk. In the past, recreational liability waivers have been widely accepted to balance personal responsibility with provider accountability. In recent years, uncertainty around the enforceability of these waivers in Oregon has created real challenges for recreation providers.

SB 1593 takes a measured and reasonable approach. It restores recreation operators' ability to use liability waivers for ordinary negligence while maintaining clear accountability for gross negligence or intentional harm. This balance is important. It protects participants, preserves access, and allows responsible operators to continue offering the experiences that make Oregon a destination.

From a tourism perspective, visitor access matters. When recreation businesses cannot secure affordable insurance or are forced to reduce services, the impacts extend far beyond a single operator. Lodging providers, restaurants and local workers all feel the effects. Over time, destinations lose experiences that draw visitors and differentiate Oregon from other places.

SB 1593 also helps bring Oregon back into alignment with other western states, reducing unnecessary competitive disadvantages for our recreation economy. In doing so, it supports a stable environment where businesses can operate responsibly, visitors can participate with clear expectations, and communities can continue to benefit from recreation-based commerce.

For these reasons, Visit Corvallis supports SB 1593. We appreciate the Legislature's thoughtful consideration of policies that protect access to recreation and strengthen Oregon's visitor economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Rehklau".

Executive Director
Visit Corvallis