



February 9, 2026

Re: Support for Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act (SB 1593)

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Will Volpert and I am the owner of Indigo Creek Outfitters, a whitewater rafting company in Phoenix, Oregon; and President of the Wild Rogue Outfitters Association, which represents special use permittees on the Wild & Scenic Rogue River. I am testifying in strong support of SB 1593.

I grew up in the river outfitting business. My parents were outfitters and I started running boats in Idaho and Oregon in 2000. In 2004, I moved to the Rogue Valley to attend Southern Oregon University. I paid my way through college by working as a guide during the summer months and at a ranch and Mt. Ashland in the winter. I started Indigo Creek in 2011 and I am proud of what this business has become and the contributions we have made to our community.

Oregon and the outdoor industry have provided my family with the platform to have a small business that is centered around rivers and people. And while I'm thankful for the opportunities, I can't imagine getting this business off the ground in Oregon's current business climate.

Today, unlike in 2011 when I started my business, Oregon does not recognize liability waivers. While national insurers are fleeing the state, national personal injury firms see an opportunity and are moving in, and the cost of insurance is skyrocketing. Since 2019, my liability insurance has tripled, despite having zero claims. Oregon's unique position on liability waivers has left businesses and families like mine exceptionally vulnerable.

Liability insurance premiums have increased far beyond inflation and absorbing these costs is having a severe impact on the affordability of our services. Year after year we have continuously had to raise our prices to the point that even my own family would struggle to afford some of the trips we offer. This is not sustainable for us, it's not fair to thousands of Oregonians who want to visit the outdoors, and it's not sustainable for Oregon's recreation industry.

Outfitters cannot operate on federal land without liability insurance. Without insurance companies willing to insure, the entire outfitting and guiding industry will collapse.

Oregonians deserve access to their backyard rivers and mountains. Many of us call Oregon home because of Oregon's natural landscapes and opportunities to recreate. Oregon's current

unique position on liability waivers is a betrayal to Oregon families who simply want to spend time outdoors.

To support rural economies, affordable access to outdoor recreation, and a vibrant small business community, we need to pass SB 1593. Thank you for your support of this bill and of small family businesses like Indigo Creek Outfitters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Will Volpert", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Will Volpert
Owner, Indigo Creek Outfitters