

February 9th, 2026

Subject: SB1593 Testimony

Attn: Chair Meek, Vice Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee

My name is Jordan Belozer. I am the Director of the Maupin Area Chamber of Commerce and the manager of a small, family-owned fly fishing business. Keeping both of these roles in mind, I strongly support the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (SB1593).

Maupin, along with many other small towns in Oregon, relies on recreational tourism to support our local economy. Our community is made up of guides and outfitters who are supported by visitors who come to Maupin to fish, raft, cycle, hunt, and hike. The costs of operating these small outfitting businesses has increased in recent years due to rising insurance and legal fees. What is even more concerning, however, is that these outfitting businesses will not be able to obtain insurance if Oregon's recreation liability issue isn't addressed. If our outfitting companies are unable to generate profit, all other local businesses will suffer, and our beloved community will no longer be sustainable.

The lack of enforceable waivers and increased costs will force businesses to increase their prices, deterring potential customers and directly impacting our already seasonal economy. ORCA is a simple solution that is being utilized by every other Western state. It makes logical sense that Oregon would follow suit and align with our neighboring states *and* the federal government.

The Maupin Area Chamber also strongly supports a state-conducted economic study to better quantify Oregon's large and sustainable outdoor recreation industry.

Thank you for championing this bill, and making access to Oregon's outdoor spaces accessible for everyone.

Respectfully,

Jordan Belozer
Maupin Area Chamber of Commerce and Belozer's Whitewater Fishing