

Submitter: Kieron Wilde
On Behalf Of: First Nature LLC
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or SB1593
Topic:

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and members of the committee,

My name is Kieron Wilde, founder of First Nature Tours in Oregon. I strongly support the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA) — SB 1593.

Our guiding business connects people to Oregon's outdoors while supporting local jobs and communities. However, rising insurance and legal costs — driven in part by uncertainty around recreation liability — are creating real pressure. The lack of enforceable waivers increases costs, lowers wages, and makes outdoor experiences less accessible and affordable. Many operators worry about whether insurance will remain available if this issue is not addressed.

ORCA offers a simple, balanced solution that already works in every other Western state and aligns Oregon with federal standards — restoring clarity Oregon once had. Bringing our state back in line with our neighbors is essential to protecting both recreation businesses and public access.

I also support the proposed economic study to better measure the value of Oregon's outdoor recreation industry.

Thank you for championing this bill and for supporting efforts that help get people safely outside. I respectfully urge your support for SB 1593.

Sincerely,
Kieron Wilde
Founder, First Nature Tours