



February 9, 2026

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government

FR: Derek Sangston, Oregon Business & Industry

RE: Support for SB 1593 – Commonsense Liability Waivers

Chair Meek, Vice-chair Drazan, members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government. For the record, I am Derek Sangston, policy director and counsel for Oregon Business & Industry (OBI).

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1593. OBI supports SB 1593 because, by honoring waivers for simple negligence that arises out of recreational activities, the bill would correct an overly burdensome policy plaguing an important industry in Oregon and help lower consumer prices. The bill would do this because it would allow businesses – both indoor and outdoor and those engaged in both the recreation and health/fitness industries – to protect themselves from litigation they do not face in Washington, Nevada, California, and Colorado.

Oregon is facing an affordability crisis in recreation, health, and fitness. Prices are rising, businesses are closing, insurers are leaving the state, and Oregon families are losing access to the recreational activities they love and cherish. Not only are businesses in Oregon already the 7th most regulated state in the country, but businesses engaged in the recreation, health, and fitness industries are additionally burdened by a regulatory scheme that does not properly balance the need for businesses need to be accountable to their customers while acknowledging the inherent risk associated with participating in the activities those businesses provide. This policy and many others like it are a significant factor for which Oregon ranks 47th for business friendliness, as a state's liability climate is a metric CNBC considers when making in that ranking.

By restoring a long-standing standard that governed liability for decades, SB 1593 would create a fair and predictable framework that allows responsible recreation providers to operate while preserving consumer protections. Importantly, it would do it with an industry-wide solution so that businesses are able to purchase affordable insurance policies and consumers benefit from lower prices and continued services.

For those reasons, I urge this committee to pass SB 1593. Thank you for your consideration.

Contact: dereksangston@oregonbusinessindustry.com