

Submitter: Ashley Hutson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General
Government
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

Dear Chair Meek and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 1593, the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability (ORCA) Act. This bill is an essential bill to pass this short session in order to protect all of Oregon's outdoor recreation. From snow skiing, to rafting, to mountain biking, these outdoor activities make Oregon a popular place to travel for fun and are a big attraction to living in our great state.

In 2014, a court ruling made liability waivers unenforceable, driving up insurance costs, eliminating amenities and forcing some recreation business to close. Oregon is the ONLY western state without this protection. This has resulted in insurance premiums increasing faster than inflation and limiting many insurance options. 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.

This bi-partisan bill would fix this and protect access to outdoor recreation statewide. ORCA is a simple and balanced solution to what is already proven to work and what every other Western state already does. It would bring us in line with the states around us and with the federal government. By clarifying liability expectations around inherent risk, SB 1593 creates a fair and predictable framework that allows responsible recreation providers to operate while preserving consumer protections. I urge this committee to pass SB 1593 out of committee.

Sincerely,
Ashley Hutson
Redmond, Oregon