

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

My name is Shane Conrad, and I am the owner of **Stout Creek Outfitters**, a small, locally owned outdoor recreation outfitting business based in Oregon. I am here to express my strong support for the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA) – **SB 1593**.

I attended Mt. Hood Community College, where I studied Outdoor Education with the goal of building a career in Oregon’s outdoor recreation industry. Like many who pursue this path, I did so because I believe in connecting people to the outdoors in a safe, responsible, and meaningful way. Unfortunately, the current recreation liability environment in Oregon is making it increasingly difficult to operate a viable business in the industry I trained to work in.

Stout Creek Outfitters provides guided recreation experiences on Oregon’s rivers and public lands, supporting local jobs and rural communities. However, rising insurance premiums and legal costs are putting significant pressure on our business. Over the past few years, our insurance costs have increased by more than 300%, and we were recently dropped by our carrier simply because they chose to stop offering coverage in Oregon. Like many outfitters, we now face constant uncertainty about whether we can obtain or afford insurance at all.

The lack of enforceable liability waivers in Oregon drives these costs. It increases risk for insurers, raises prices for participants, suppresses guide wages, and limits access to outdoor recreation—especially for small, locally owned operators.

ORCA is a simple, balanced, and proven solution. It aligns Oregon with every other Western state and the federal government, and with what Oregon itself previously had in place. This clarity is critical for insurers, outfitters, and participants, and it is essential if Oregon wants to remain competitive as an outdoor recreation destination.

I also support the provision directing the state to conduct an economic study of Oregon’s outdoor recreation industry. Better data will help policymakers understand the scale, value, and importance of this sector.

Thank you for your time and for your leadership on SB 1593. I respectfully urge your support.

Shane Conrad



Owner, Stout Creek Outfitters