



Date:	February 10, 2026
To:	Chair Meek, Vice Chair Drazan, Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government
From:	Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager Justin Low
Subject:	Support – SB 1593

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1593. For the record, I am Justin Low, testifying on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC).

Oregon's 36 counties play a critical role in providing safe, accessible, and affordable recreation opportunities across our state, especially in rural and frontier communities where counties may be the primary public provider of parks and outdoor programming.

Counties manage and operate thousands of acres of parks, campgrounds, boat ramps, fairgrounds, forestlands, trails, and waterfront access points. In many communities, county facilities are the only publicly available recreation infrastructure.

Counties routinely partner with their community to offer a wide array of recreational programs and activities, including:

- Sports tournaments at county fairgrounds and regional parks
- 4-H and OSU Extension outdoor education programs
- Equestrian events and rodeos at county fairgrounds
- Seasonal festivals, endurance events, and trail runs
- Vendor-operated zip lines, ropes courses, and outdoor adventure concessions within county parks

Counties also frequently contract with private recreation vendors who operate on county property. Clear statutory recognition of recreational liability waivers provides consistency and certainty not only for counties, but also for the local businesses that partner with counties to deliver these programs. These activities enrich quality of life, promote tourism, and support local economies. They also, by their very nature, involve inherent and well-understood recreational risk.

SB 1593 provides important assurance that properly executed recreational liability waivers will be recognized and enforceable for ordinary liability. This clarity helps counties continue offering safe, affordable, and diverse recreational programming without unnecessary legal uncertainty.

Oregonians value access to the outdoors, and county governments are proud to steward and activate those spaces for them. SB 1593 helps ensure that counties can continue to do so responsibly. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1593.

Sincerely,

Justin Low

AOC Legislative Affairs Manager