



Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association

Serving Oregon Outfitters Since 1963

February 15, 2026

Submitter: Brian Sykes

On Behalf Of: Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary

Measure: SB 1517

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, members of the committee

My name is Brian Sykes, and I am the President of the Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association. Formed in 1963 as the Oregon Guides and Packers, our organization serves all outfitters and guides licensed and operating in Oregon. We advocate for the preservation, growth, and stability of the outfitting and guiding industry. Our industry provides sustainable jobs, supports rural economies, and helps protect and conserve our state's remarkable natural resources.

The absence of enforceable liability waivers in Oregon has created a legal environment that places outfitters and guides at unreasonable risk. It has also contributed to fewer insurance options and a significant increase in liability insurance premiums. The current environment has suppressed wage growth, increased legal and operational costs, and forced price increases—ultimately limiting access to the outdoors for some members of the public.

We are concerned that SB 1517-6 or SB 1517-7 does not solve the insurance crisis facing providers across the state. The amendments, while representing improvement, still fail to provide the clarity and predictability insurers need to re-enter or remain in Oregon. No other state does what this proposal seeks.

I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1517 as amended by either the -6 or the -7 amendments.

SB 1593 on the other hand, has overwhelming bipartisan support, will address the recreational insurance crisis, and is already further along in the legislative process. We ask that you please refocus your efforts to support SB 1593.

Sincerely,
Brian Sykes, President
Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association