



February 16, 2026

Chair Floyd Prozanski  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

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

I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1517 as amended by the -6 or -7 amendments, and to instead support SB 1593.

The absence of enforceable liability waivers in Oregon has created a legal environment that places outfitters and guides at unreasonable risk. This uncertainty has significantly reduced available insurance options and driven sharp increases in liability insurance premiums. As a result, providers are facing suppressed wage growth, rising legal and operational costs, and necessary price increases that ultimately limit access to outdoor recreation for many Oregonians.

In Central Oregon and across the state, the recreation economy is a critical sector that supports thousands of jobs and contributes significantly to our region's vitality. Our members include recreation providers, outfitters, ski areas, gyms, guides, tourism-related businesses, nonprofits, and small family-owned enterprises. These organizations rely on a stable liability framework to operate, maintain affordable insurance, and continue offering safe and accessible recreation opportunities. When providers cannot secure coverage or manage liability exposure, the impacts extend beyond individual businesses, threatening local employment, tourism-driven economic activity, and a key part of Oregon's identity and quality of life.

We appreciate the work that has gone into the -6 and -7 amendments to SB 1517. However, while these amendments represent an effort to improve the bill, they still fail to provide the clarity, consistency, and predictability insurers need to re-enter or remain in the Oregon market.

By contrast, SB 1593 has overwhelming bipartisan support and offers a more effective and workable path forward to address the recreational insurance crisis. SB 1593 restores reasonable and commonly accepted waiver protections by allowing enforceable liability waivers for ordinary negligence, while maintaining accountability for gross negligence and misconduct. This balanced approach protects consumers, restores predictability for providers, and helps Oregon remain competitive with neighboring western states.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to oppose SB 1517 as amended by the -6 or -7 amendments and to refocus your efforts on advancing SB 1593. Passage of SB 1593 will help create

a fair environment for outdoor recreation businesses and ensure Oregonians and visitors continue to have safe and affordable access to recreation opportunities into the future.

Thank you for your ongoing work on this important policy issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Odendahl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sara Odendahl  
CEO  
Bend Chamber