

Submitter: Kim McCarrel  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Equestrian Trails  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the committee,

I represent Oregon Equestrian Trails, a nonprofit whose members volunteer to maintain trails on public lands.

With our federal land managers' staffing reductions, volunteers like ours are often the ones out there doing the maintenance necessary to keep trails open. We need liability waiver reform that aligns Oregon's laws with other states, reducing costs and creating greater certainty for small organizations like ours.

In this session, we have consistently supported the policy language in SB 1593A as a workable solution that would meet our needs.

SB 1517A as passed by the Senate with the -7 amendment will not protect our organization. It offers no protection for stewardship activities. And its many explicit exceptions to what can be included in waivers would put us at even greater risk than the already untenable status quo.

However, we would support the moving of SB 1517A forward with the -A11 or -A15 amendments. The -A11 amendment contains the language we've asked for all along. We're also willing to trade the certainties of SB 1593A for the broad applicability of -A15 if that is the legislature's provided route toward a compromise.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Kim McCarrel  
VP Public Lands  
Oregon Equestrian Trails