

Submitter: Jeff McNamee
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

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

As a land steward and nonprofit advocate, recreational liability protections are vital to the physical and mental health of Oregonians. We need liability waiver reform that aligns Oregon's laws with other states, reducing costs and creating greater certainty for small organizations. I have spent the past 16 years on various trail nonprofits. This bill is not aligned with what nonprofits need or want. It seems to be aligned with what lawyers want. I have consistently shared my support for the policy language in SB 1593A as a workable solution that would meet the needs of trail organizations from around the state.

SB 1517A, as passed, does not provide organizations with greater certainty or reduce our insurance costs. There is no protection for stewardship activities and the many explicit exceptions to what can be included in waivers would put all volunteer led trail organizations at even greater risk. I could support the moving of SB 1517A forward with the -A11 or -A15 amendments. The -A11 amendment contains the language many nonprofits are asking for.

Thank you for your leadership.
Jeff McNamee