

Submitter: Todd Collins
On Behalf Of: Wet Planet Rafting and Kayaking
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

To whom it may concern,

I am co-owner of Wet Planet Rafting and Kayaking. We are a whitewater outfitter providing guided rafting and kayaking trips in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The fact that liability waivers are unenforceable in the state of Oregon poses an existential threat to the continued operation of outdoor outfitters in the state. We have already had our liability insurance denied for our operations in Oregon for the 2026 season by the same underwriter that has approved our insurance policies for over a decade. The reason is that Oregon's laws regarding waivers are out of touch with neighboring states, creating a greater risk for operations in Oregon. We are working with our agent to find a solution, but we don't know if this will be possible.

SB1517-7, as written, will actually make the situation worse. For outfitters like us to continue to operate in Oregon, we need the legislature to declare that liability waivers are enforceable as a matter of policy. The language in SB 1593 does that.

We are not asking to be allowed to act irresponsibly while still being protected by waivers. We are asking for the same, common sense approach that exists in every other state around Oregon. The approach in 1593 provides a well-tested solution that recognizes that there are inherent risks in outdoor recreational activities, while still providing guests an avenue to bring cases to the courts.

The current situation in Oregon is unsustainable. We are imploring the legislature to abandon SB 1517-7 as written, and move forward with SB 1593. Without the passage of SB 1593, or significant changes to SB 1517, we will be forced to cease our guided operations in Oregon. We also operate in two states (WA and ID) that have policies regarding waivers that are in line with common sense policies throughout the nation. We cannot continue to operate in Oregon under the risk created by a lack of enforceable waivers.

Thank you.

Todd Collins
Wet Planet Rafting and Kayaking