

Submitter: Obie Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

I am writing in support of the -8 amendment to SB 1517.

Oregon's outdoor recreation economy depends on clear, enforceable liability standards. Without the ability to rely on standard waivers — like those used successfully in Washington, Idaho, and California — insurance carriers will continue to leave our state. When insurance disappears, small ski areas, rafting guides, climbing gyms, and other recreation providers simply cannot operate.

The current version of SB 1517 does not solve the insurance crisis. It creates uncertainty and exposes recreation providers to continued litigation risk, which makes coverage unaffordable or unavailable.

The -8 amendment provides a practical fix. It restores balance by allowing courts to dismiss meritless lawsuits while still holding providers accountable for true negligence. That balance is essential if we want recreation businesses to survive and keep costs reasonable for families.

Please support the -8 amendment to SB 1517 and help protect Oregon's outdoor recreation community.