

Submitter: Mike Slagle

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,

My name is Mike Slagle. I have been a rafting guide for Orange Torpedo Trips out of Grants Pass for the last 54 years. This will be my 55th season serving the public.

SB 1517-7, as written, would make the situation worse than the current law, not better. If passed as is, we would be in a worse situation than we are now, and the current situation is unsustainable.

For outfitters and guides to survive, we need the legislature to declare that liability waivers are enforceable as a matter of public policy. The common-sense language that is in SB 1593 does that.

We are not asking for a free pass. We are just asking for the same simple, balanced approach that every other state around us uses (and Oregon used to use). A well-tested solution that recognizes that there are inherent risks to recreational activities while still giving guests an avenue to bring a case to the courts.

We want to get back to showing people Oregon's outdoors. And we are running out of time; if we don't do something this session, there are going to be outfitters who will be out of business next year.

Thank you for your leadership,

Mike Slagle
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