

Submitter: Sue Fox  
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 Sue Fox and I am a manager at Tumalo Creek Kayak & Canoe, a paddle retailer and outfitter in Bend, Oregon. At TC, we support our local community year round and receive thousands of tourists nationwide, every summer. As a small company we employ five of us year round and over sixty in the summer. We care deeply about Oregon, our public lands, and the public-private partnerships that help make outdoor recreation accessible. At TC we are proud to play a role in connecting people to our waterways. However, this legislative process has been discouraging for many of our members.

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 so much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Sue Fox