

Submitter: Katie Earl
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 Katie Earl, and I am the owner and lead guide of Onward Adventures on the Oregon North Coast. I operate a small, transportation-based outdoor tour business serving visitors and local families.

SB 1517-7, as written, would make the current situation worse, not better. The uncertainty around liability waivers is already creating serious challenges for small outfitters like me. Insurance costs are rising, options are limited, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to plan for future seasons.

For outfitters and guides to survive, the legislature must clearly declare that liability waivers are enforceable as a matter of public policy. We are not asking for immunity or a free pass. We are asking for the same balanced, common-sense approach used in neighboring states — one that recognizes the inherent risks of outdoor recreation while still allowing legitimate claims to proceed.

My business depends on responsibly getting people outside and safely exploring Oregon's coastline. Without clear protections around waivers, many small operators will not be able to continue.

Please fix this issue this session and provide clarity that allows small outdoor businesses to survive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katie Earl
Owner, Onward Adventures