

Submitter: Taylor MAREAN
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 Taylor, and I run Waterfall Shuttle, eBike Multnomah Falls, and Kayak the Gorge in the Columbia River Gorge. Over the past five years, my businesses have introduced tens of thousands of people to Oregon's outdoors — people who came here, spent money here, and left with a memory of this state that they'll carry for the rest of their lives. That's what we do. That's what's at stake.

Despite never having a single claim against us, my insurance costs have skyrocketed to the point where they're consuming nearly 10% of my revenue — and some years I can barely find a carrier willing to insure me at all. That is not a sustainable business. And it puts Oregon operators at a direct disadvantage compared to guides and outfitters in Washington, Idaho, and every other state around us, where commonsense liability reform means insurers can actually price our risk fairly. 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 that 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.

I want to keep showing people Oregon's outdoors. I've spent five years building something that brings real value to this state. But without reform this session, I don't know how much longer I can hold on — and I know I'm not the only one.

Thank you for your leadership,

Taylor

Waterfall Shuttle | eBike Multnomah Falls | Kayak the Gorge