

Submitter: Thomas Emmons  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517  
Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 1517.

Oregon is home to some of the most beautiful and unique outdoor recreation opportunities in the country. From rivers and mountains to forests and high desert, these experiences are part of what makes our state special. However, for Oregonians and visitors to safely access many of these activities, outdoor recreation providers must be able to obtain affordable, reliable insurance coverage.

SB 1517 does not restore meaningful enforceability of waivers for outdoor recreation providers. Instead of addressing the underlying structural problems in the insurance market, the bill makes it harder for legitimate businesses to manage risk and stay insured. This ultimately limits access to outdoor recreation, increases costs for consumers, and threatens the viability of small and mid-sized operators across the state.

If Oregon wants a thriving outdoor economy, the Legislature must directly address the insurance and liability challenges facing this industry. I urge you to oppose SB 1517 and instead pursue meaningful reforms that provide clarity, stability, and fairness for recreation providers and the communities they serve.

It is time for our elected leaders to take decisive action and fix the real problem, rather than advancing measures that fail to solve it.

Thank you for your consideration.