

March 1, 2026

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the committee,

RE: Opposing SB1517-7

My name is Mia Sheppard, my husband and I own Little Creek Outfitters, a small family-owned, fly-fishing business in Maupin, Oregon. We love been an outfitter and sharing Oregon's beautiful rivers and fish with visitors. Visitors, lodge, eat out, and shop in the rural towns we base out of, such as Maupin, Condon and Elgin, all benefit from small buisnesses such as ours.

SB 1517-7, as written, will not fix the problem or bring insurance carriers back to Oregon, it will make the situation worse, premiums could skyrocket and coverages vanish. 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, it enables recreational operators to use liability waivers for ordinary negligence for participants 18 or older and directs OBDD to study the state's recreation economy.

I am asking that a simple, balanced approach be passed like 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.

SB 1517-7 will put Oregon's recreation industry at risk. We are running out of time; if you don't do something this session, then Oregon Outfitters are at risk and so is Oregon's Outdoor Recreation Industry.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mia and Marty Sheppard
Little Creek Outfitters

541-419-2105