

Submitter: Clifford Agocs  
On Behalf Of: Timberline Mountain Guides  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

My name is Clifford Agocs and I run Timberline Mountain Guides, a recreation provider in Oregon since 1983. I am writing because insurance costs are making it extraordinarily difficult to continue to take people outside to experience the amazing recreation that Oregon has to offer. The best way to address these costs is for the Oregon Legislature to declare that liability waivers are enforceable as a matter of public policy.

I take the safety of my guests seriously and in all of our 43 years we have never had a claim against us. Yet our insurance costs are becoming untenable. This effects myself and the 25 Oregon guides who work for me. I am not asking for anything out of the ordinary. Every other state that thrives on outdoor recreation follows the same standard. Folks will still be able to sue for gross negligence. But the inherent risks of the activities that people pay us to lead, should not be the reason that we aren't able to share the nature and beauty of Oregon with those that come to our state for these experiences. These visitors fuel our lodging, hospitality and restaurant industries. They are a vital part of our economy and so are the recreation providers like me.

Please fix 1517 so that it protects small businesses like mine.

Thank you.