



March 2, 2026

Chair Bowman  
House Committee on Rules  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber and our members across Central Oregon, I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1517A in its current form. We appreciate the many hours of work that have gone into addressing this issue, and the challenges with creating a fair and balanced public policy are not lost on us.

Oregon's ongoing recreational liability crisis continues to place outfitters, guides, ski areas, gyms, stewardship organizations, and small recreation businesses at significant and unreasonable risk. The absence of enforceable liability waivers for ordinary negligence has created instability in the insurance market, driven sharp increases in premiums, and limited coverage availability. These impacts suppress wage growth, increase operating costs, and ultimately reduce access to recreation for Oregonians and visitors alike.

SB 1517A, as currently drafted, does not resolve these challenges. The numerous limitations and exceptions contained in the bill fail to provide the clarity and predictability insurers require to confidently operate in Oregon. Without meaningful reform, recreation providers and land stewardship organizations will continue facing escalating costs and legal uncertainty that threaten jobs, tourism, and an essential part of our state's economy and identity.

Throughout this session, we have consistently supported the policy framework contained in SB 1593 because it restores reasonable, commonly accepted liability waiver protections for ordinary negligence while preserving accountability for gross negligence and misconduct. That balanced approach offers the certainty necessary to stabilize insurance markets and protect consumer access.

**We would support SB 1517A if amended by the -11 amendment, and we are willing to accept the -15 amendment as a workable compromise.**

Amendment -11 to SB 1517A reinstates the core intent and policy structure we have supported all along in SB 1593. For that reason, we would support SB 1517A if amended by -11.

We also recognize the Legislature's desire to find a path forward. While not identical to SB 1593, we are willing to accept amendment -15 as a compromise that would meaningfully improve the current legal landscape and move Oregon closer to parity with other western states.



Central Oregon's recreation economy supports thousands of jobs and is foundational to our regional vitality. We respectfully ask you to oppose SB 1517A in its current form and instead adopt amendment -11 or -15 to ensure meaningful, workable reform.

Thank you for your ongoing work on this important policy issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Odendahl", written in a cursive style.

Sara Odendahl  
CEO  
Bend Chamber