

Submitter: Mark Fitzsimons
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 Mark Fitzsimons, I live in Tigard Oregon, I work for Tualatin Riverkeepers and volunteer for the North Clackamas Watersheds Council and Oregon Nordic Club.

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, guides, and non-profits that improve trails and enhance habitat 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 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'm frustrated - we've been trying to fix this broken situation for over 10 years - we just want to get back to showing people Oregon's outdoors. And we are running out of time; if we don't do something this session, there are going to be organizations who are no longer able to teach people skills, build trails, enhance habitat, and share Oregon's wonders with people from across our country.

Thank you for your leadership,

Mark Fitzsimons