

Submitter: J Miller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

We need liability waiver reform that aligns Oregon's laws with those of other states, so that Oregon can stay a competitive alternative for fun-seeking visitors. Oregon's recreation businesses and local landowners depend on being able to obtain liability insurance at reasonable prices and with provisions similar to surrounding states.

In this session, the Protect Oregon Recreation coalition has consistently shared support for the policy language in SB 1593A as a workable solution that would meet the needs of the outdoor recreation community.

SB 1517A, as passed by the -7 will not provide the recreation industry with greater certainty or reduce insurance costs. There is no protection for stewardship activities and the many explicit exceptions to what can be included in waivers increases the risk that the remaining insurance companies will leave the state. This will effectively end the recreation industry, with severe impact to the Oregon economy.

However, we could support the moving of SB 1517A forward with the -A11 or -A15 amendments. The -A11 amendment contains the language we've been asking for all along, and we're also willing to trade the certainties of SB 1593A for the broad applicability of -A15 if that is the legislature's provided route toward a compromise.