

Submitter: MARCUS BINGHAM
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,

I am writing as the owner-operator of Versatile Guide Service LLC (DBA Terran Travels), a Portland-based tour company specializing in sightseeing, hiking, and outdoor excursions. I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1517.

As currently written, SB 1517-7 would worsen an already unsustainable legal environment for outfitters and guides. For our industry to survive, the legislature must declare that liability waivers are enforceable as a matter of public policy. We support the common-sense language found in SB 1593, which provides this necessary protection.

We are not asking for a free pass. We are seeking the same balanced approach used by our neighboring states—a solution that recognizes the inherent risks of recreational activities while maintaining a guest's right to pursue legitimate legal claims.

We want to continue sharing Oregon's outdoors with the public. However, time is running out; without legislative action this session, many outfitters will be forced out of business by next year.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of this critical issue.

Best regards,

Marcus Bingham
Versatile Guide Service LLC