

Linda Kadas
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03/02/26

RE: SB1517

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I urge you to support SB1517 **only with amendments A11 or A15**

I am writing this message for myself but also especially for a family member who has taken up (with her husband) hiking in her retirement. What a change it has made in her life....she's healthier, she's happier, and, I think, eagerly looking forward to each new year's trips that are planned. I also have a deep love of Oregon's wildernesses instilled in my childhood with "going for rides" into the Mt. Hood forests with my family.

As you know, state and federal land agencies are unable to meet staffing and budget needs currently. It appears that nonprofits, such as Trail Keepers of Oregon, have the knowledge, capability, and desire to step in to provide some of the work that is desperately needed... but with their own needs.

Either of the two amendments would provide balanced liability protections for conservation and stewardship organizations while preserving accountability for gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

Few people these days are willing to provide free work, so please do not look this gift horse in the mouth. Allow these nonprofits to provide free trained and caring people to preserve one of Oregon's greatest assets — safe and thoughtful stewardship so that wilderness lovers can explore our beautiful forests.

Sincerely,