

Submitter: Brent Fenty  
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,

The Oregon Desert Land Trust conserves land for wildlife and protects Oregonians' access to wild lands for activities like hiking, fishing, and hunting. All of our protected lands are open to these uses with the exception of areas near residential housing or other incompatible infrastructure. We are a successful land trust and work hard to ensure we're well-positioned to steward our lands. Recreational liability protections are critical to our ability to make these lands available to the public.

We support liability waiver reform that aligns Oregon's laws with other states, reducing costs and creating greater certainty for small organizations. Liability reform and our own fiscal responsibility will help ensure we can continue to provide meaningful opportunities for Oregonians to enjoy some of Oregon's most compelling landscapes.

SB 1517-7 as currently written will not provide us with greater security or reduce our insurance costs. There is no protection for stewardship activities and the many explicit exceptions to liability waiver protection would put us at even greater risk than the status quo. We would support moving SB 1517 forward with the -A11 or -A15 amendments that do offer fair and meaningful protections for activities that benefit all Oregonians.

Thank you for considering our input.