

March 2, 2026



Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the committee,

I'm writing on behalf of The Intertwine Alliance to express opposition to SB 1517-7 as currently written.

The Intertwine Alliance is the Portland region's coalition of 85 public, private and nonprofit partners working for our system of parks, trails, greenspace — and for access to nature for all communities.

As land stewards, recreation providers, and nonprofit advocates, recreational liability protections are critical to fulfilling our mission. As you know, both federal and state public agencies maintaining our public lands are facing devastating budget and staffing shortfalls. Meanwhile non-governmental organizations are doing everything they can to continue running programs that create safe and welcoming access to the outdoors for all Oregonians and mobilizing and training volunteers to maintain our trails and waterways for safety, access, and ecosystem health.

We need liability waiver reform that aligns Oregon's laws with other states, reducing costs and creating greater certainty for small organizations. That in turn allows us to continue protecting access and opportunity for recreation and stewardship activities alike.

This session we have consistently shared our support for the policy language in SB 1593A as a workable solution that would meet our needs.

SB 1517-7 as currently written will not provide our organizations and our volunteer board officers with greater security or reduce their insurance costs. There is no protection for stewardship activities, and the many explicit exceptions to what can be



included in waivers would put us at even greater risk than the already untenable status quo.

However, we would be supportive of moving SB 1517 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 provide route toward a compromise.

Recreational liability protections enhance public safety by ensuring that outfitters, volunteer coordinators, and other trained professionals are able to continue to effectively guide group programming in the outdoors and steward Oregon's natural spaces we treasure.

Sincerely,

Tara Wilkinson, Director
The Intertwine Alliance
tara@theintertwine.org

