

Submitter: Florian Raqueno
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Pham, and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

I oppose SB 1517 and urge consideration of SB 1593 as the more effective policy solution.

Recreational and fitness-related businesses depend on liability insurance to operate. Under current conditions, many Oregon businesses face higher liability insurance costs compared to neighboring states. These elevated premiums increase operating expenses, which can translate into higher prices for consumers, reduced service offerings, or in some cases, decisions not to expand or invest in Oregon.

Restoring the validity of liability waivers for ordinary negligence, as contemplated in SB 1593, would help bring Oregon into closer alignment with surrounding states. Greater clarity and enforceability in liability standards would provide predictability for insurers and businesses alike. This, in turn, could improve access to affordable coverage and support continued investment in Oregon's recreational economy. By contrast, SB 1517 contains ambiguous language and appears narrowly focused on specific recreational activities, without addressing broader industry needs. Our members are seeking clear, consistent, and enforceable standards that apply across the recreational sector—not limited or partial solutions that may create additional uncertainty.

Businesses engaged in outdoor recreation, agritourism (including winery and brewery tours), fitness centers, and other experiential activities play an important role in attracting visitors and enhancing Oregon's competitiveness for tourism and investment. Aligning Oregon's liability framework with regional standards would strengthen these sectors and support local economic growth.

For these reasons, I strongly urge a "no" vote on SB 1517 and support for SB 1593.

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