

Submitter: Max Farbman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

As a supporter of outdoor recreation and stewardship in Oregon, I urge you to move SB 1517 forward only with the -A11 or -A15 amendments.

These amendments strike an important balance. They provide reasonable liability protections for conservation and stewardship organizations while still preserving accountability in cases of gross negligence or intentional misconduct. That balance is essential for protecting the volunteers and nonprofits who care for Oregon's public lands without weakening important safety standards.

Across the state, nonprofit organizations and volunteer leaders play a critical role in maintaining trails, restoring habitat, and expanding access to the outdoors. Much of the work that keeps Oregon's trail systems open and safe—from routine maintenance to larger stewardship projects—is carried out by volunteers and small organizations with limited resources. Without clear and workable liability protections, these groups face growing legal risk that could discourage participation and limit their ability to continue this important work.

Oregon's outdoor spaces are central to our culture, our health, and our economy. Ensuring that stewardship organizations can operate with appropriate protections will help sustain the volunteer efforts that maintain trails, support responsible recreation, and preserve our natural landscapes for future generations.