



February 23, 2026

Dear Members of the Oregon Senate:

We write to you as land stewards, conservationists, recreation providers, and nonprofit advocates from across Oregon to share our serious concerns with SB 1517 as amended by the -7 (now SB 1517-A).

On February 9, nearly 100 staff members, volunteers, and supporters of recreation, conservation, and stewardship organizations came to the Capitol to meet with legislators to share the dire need for recreational liability waiver reform. Instead of meeting this need, SB 1517-A threatens the viability of our work. Oregon's liability policies endanger recreation and volunteer land stewardship in Oregon and threaten our ability to fulfill our missions to protect some of the most iconic landscapes and natural areas in our state.

We are particularly concerned with the loss of recreational insurance providers, which has led to our insurance premiums increasing significantly, while our provider options have continued to dwindle. The passage of SB 1517-A will only exacerbate these issues.

The fact that Senate Bill 1517-A has advanced to the Senate floor after it was overwhelmingly opposed in Committee is troubling given that SB 1593-5—the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act—passed out of the Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government on a 5-0 vote with a “do-pass” recommendation on February 11th.

Today you are being asked to vote for a bill that, instead of fixing Oregon's ineffective recreation liability waiver policies, will negatively impact the critical work of the nonprofit stewardship, conservation, and recreation organizations.

We need an effective fix to recreation liability waivers now in order to preserve our state's world-class recreation industry and vital stewardship and conservation work. Regardless of how you decide to vote on SB 1517-A, we ask that you make it clear that the House needs to fix this legislation before sending it back. The future of Oregon's outdoor recreation economy and conservation-focused land stewardship programs depend on comprehensive recreation liability waiver reform.

From the Desk of Senator Mark Meek