



PROTECT OREGON RECREATION

February 23, 2026

Members of the Oregon Senate:

We write today as recreation users, providers, and supporters from across Oregon to express grave concerns with Senate Bill 1517-7 (now SB 1517 A)

We came to Salem this session, just as we've come to Salem the last several sessions, seeking bipartisan help on recreational liability waiver reform. SB 1517-7 is not the help we asked for. In fact, it would make an already bad situation worse.

Recreation in Oregon is imperiled by Oregon's current liability policies, which are the worst amongst western states and amongst the worst in the nation.

Of particular concern is the loss of recreational liability insurers from the Oregon market. They are already leaving and SB 1517-7 will only hasten their departure. Those that haven't left have been forced to continually increase rates and limit coverage. It's not their fault. The pressures facing recreational liability insurers are already unique and extreme. In Oregon they're untenable. The attached letters from recreational liability insurers should make that abundantly clear.

That Senate Bill 1517 has advanced to the Senate Floor in its current state is alarming. Especially given that SB 1593 – the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act – passed out of 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 on legislation that will hurt recreation providers and users and all those who depend on and benefit from this vital and beloved industry. You are being asked to trust that the House will fix this flawed bill.

However you decide to vote today, and whether you're opposing SB 1517-7 or voting to move it along for additional work, we ask that you make it known that the House needs to [fix this legislation before sending it back!](#) Oregon's recreation industry needs the Oregon Legislature's help and we need it now.

From the Desk of Senator Mark Meek