



PROTECT OREGON RECREATION

February 24, 2026

Members of the Oregon State Senate:

We write today as recreation users, providers, and supporters from across Oregon to express grave concerns with Senate Bill 1517-7 (SB 1517A) and reiterate our support for SB 1593A, the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026.

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 sought. 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 extreme. In Oregon they've become untenable. The attached letters from recreational insurers should make that clear.

That Senate Bill 1517 has advanced to the Senate Floor in its current state is alarming. Especially given that SB 1593A passed out of Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government 5-0 with a "do pass" recommendation and now resides in the Senate Committee on Rules.

Yet today, on the Senate Floor, you are being asked to vote not on SB 1593A, but on legislation that will harm 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 inclined to reject and oppose SB 1517-7 in favor of SB 1593A, or move SB 1517-7 along for additional work, we ask that you make clear your desire to SUPPORT Oregon's beloved and beleaguered recreation industry on the Senate Floor this session.

From the Desk of Senator Mark Meek