



From the Desk of Senator Mark Meek

February 24, 2026

Dear Members of the Oregon Senate:

We write to you as nonprofit land stewards, conservationists, and recreation providers from across Oregon to share our serious concerns with SB 1517 (SB 1517A), and reiterate our unanimous support for SB 1593A, currently in the Senate Committee on Rules.

On February 9, a coalition of nearly 100 recreation, conservation, and stewardship advocates came to Salem to meet with lawmakers and discuss the dire need for recreational liability waiver reform. Instead of meeting this need, SB 1517-7 threatens the viability of our work. Oregon’s liability policies endanger recreation and volunteer land stewardship in Oregon and drive business to our neighboring states, which all have sensible recreation liability laws.

We are especially concerned with the loss of recreational insurance providers. Over the last decade, we have seen our insurance premiums significantly increase or have seen our insurance options dwindle. The unique pressures facing recreational liability insurers are already complicated, but in Oregon they have become nearly impossible to navigate. SB 1517-7 will only exacerbate these issues.

The fact that Senate Bill 1517-7 has advanced to the Senate Floor after it was overwhelmingly opposed in Committee is troubling, particularly given that SB 1593A—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 and now resides in Senate Rules.

Today you are being asked to vote for a bill that, instead of fixing Oregon’s ineffective recreation liability waiver policies as SB 1593A will do, will harm the ability of land stewards, conservationists, and recreation providers to meet our missions, which significantly improve lives in communities around the state.

We need an effective fix to recreation liability waivers now to preserve our state’s world-class recreation industry and the vital stewardship work that tens of thousands of Oregonians volunteer with annually. Regardless of whether you vote to oppose SB 1517-7 in favor of SB 1593A or to move SB 1517-7 forward for additional work, we ask that you give the opportunity for meaningful reform to be supported on the Senate floor. The future of Oregon’s outdoor recreation economy and conservation-focused land stewardship programs depend on comprehensive recreation liability waiver reform.