

Submitter: Sam Drevo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

Attn: Senator Prozanski and members of the senate committee of the judiciary,

My name is Sam Drevo and I own a kayak school and raft company based in Oregon City OR. We have been in business for over 25 years and employ over 20 seasonal staff and serve 10,000's of Oregonians and visitors annually (an important component of the recreation and tourism economy in Clackamas County). We also started the Clackamas River Cleanup over 23 years ago pulling over 80,000 pounds of trash out of the river with over 6000 volunteers. We actively support stewardship efforts on Willamette, Sandy, Mollalla, North Santiam and Deschutes Rivers in Oregon. We engage, build character, and shape youth education about basic water safety awareness through our kids programs, serving over 1000 youth days on the river annually. This makes a difference in Oregon's economy, and we have watched our insurance rates quadruple over the past four years making it increasingly difficult to stay in business.

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 1517. This bill harms all recreation providers and volunteers that use waivers to conduct their businesses and programs. Why is my non-ski based operation being left out of these important conversations? Here are some of my concerns regarding this bill:

SB 1517 isolates one segment of the recreation and does nothing to address the insurance crisis affecting ALL outdoor recreation and fitness providers in Oregon, and throws small businesses under the bus. Additionally, the bill does nothing to balance inherent risk for nonprofits, conservation and volunteer programs. It does nothing to balance or stabilize the insurance market of which we have been a casualty of rates quadrupling over the last four years. It harms Oregonians access to outdoor recreation, affordability of outdoor recreation, and negatively impacts access to safe outdoor recreation opportunities.

This bill further entrenches Oregon as an outlier state. All other western states honor waivers, it is time for Oregon to move in alignment with federal standards and the standards of other states.

Conversely, the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026 (ORCA) has taken an inclusive and balanced approach for all Oregonians (SB 1593 & HB4071). This would take the first step in re-balancing Oregon's liability waiver laws in a way that promotes small business, non-profit, conservation, volunteer programs and allows Oregon's Fitness, Outdoor and Ski industries, as well as promoting

equitable and affordable outdoor recreation opportunities for Oregonians.

In summary, I urge you to strongly oppose SB 1517, and instead, join the collaborative solution and say YES to SB 1593.