

Submitter: Jonah Grubb
On Behalf Of: ROW Adventures
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

Dear Chairman Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am a 2nd generation Outfitter in Oregon and am writing today on behalf of our business, ROW Adventures. We operate guided multi-day rafting and biking trips in Oregon including the Rogue River, Deschutes River, Owyhee, Snake River, and Bike trips in the Willamette Valley. We are a small family owned business, now in our 47th year. We employ many local Oregonins, both as seasonal guides and some year round support staff. Many of our trips bring visitors to rural areas where we spend money to put on these trips, and they spend additional money in support of their vacation. We know outdoor recreation has a huge economic impact on these small rural economies.

As a small outdoor business we are facing ever challenging headwinds and the current liability climate in Oregon is a huge concern for us. Both because a ill intentioned guest on our trips could potentially put us out of business and because of our limited protection in Oregon, insurance premiums are skyrocketing. We have seen a 100% increase in insurance costs since 2021.

I am writing today in Opposition of SB 1517. This shortsighted bill only offers protection for the most well funded outdoor industry, the ski industry. We have seen them get special protection in the past and we are in staunch opposition of this special treatment. This bill ignores the problem for the vast majority of the outdoor industry including outfitters, guides, climbing gyms, bike parks and more. This bill seems to be distraction from the legislation introduced that will actually help and we urge you to support ORCA (SB 1593 and HB 4701.) We need your help in protecting the outdoor recreation industry and rural economies in Oregon.

Please bring Oregon into the modern day of outdoor recreation and in line with all other western states by opposing SB 1517 and passing ORCA.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jonah Grubb
VP and GM of ROW Adventures