



High Country Expeditions

694 North Larch St.,
Unit 909
Sisters, OR 97759
541-822-8288 office
541-337-4145 cell

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

My name is Georg Adelt, I am the owner of High Country Expeditions, a small, family-owned outfitting business based in McKenzie Bridge, Oregon. We have been operating in Oregon for more than 26 years. Providing guided river trips and outdoor recreation experiences that support local jobs, tourism, and community economies.

I am writing in opposition to SB 1517 as currently written.

As an outfitter, we rely on participant acknowledgment-of-risk forms (liability waivers) to operate responsibly in inherently risky outdoor environments. In Oregon, the declining legal reliability of these waivers, combined with consistently rising insurance costs, has created a legal and financial environment that is increasingly difficult for small recreation businesses like ours to sustain.

SB 1517 addresses liability protections only for ski areas while leaving thousands of other waiver using businesses and nonprofits fully exposed. Outfitters, guides, Shuttle companies, trail organizations, climbing gyms, bike parks, volunteer groups, and conservation programs face the same challenges but receive no relief under this bill.

By isolating a single segment of the recreation economy, SB 1517 does nothing to stabilize the broader insurance market, improve access or affordability, or fairly balance risk. It further reinforces Oregon's status as an outlier state, as nearly all other western states recognize and enforce recreational liability waivers.

I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose SB 1517 unless it is amended to include outfitters as well as other recreation providers. Instead, I ask that you support SB 1593 and HB 4701, which take a more comprehensive and equitable approach to addressing Oregon's outdoor

recreation liability challenges.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Georg Adelt
President
High Country Expeditions
Sisters, Oregon