

Submitter: Brian Sykes
On Behalf Of: Bend
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

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

I am Brian Sykes, Owner of Ouzel Outfitters, a whitewater rafting company offering river trips on six rivers across the state of Oregon. Recreation liability reform is long overdue in Oregon. Thousands of small Oregon businesses including river outfitters, cycling operations, climbing guides, conservation organizations, gyms, outdoor education programs and more are in desperate need of relief. SB 1517 addresses the issue only for ski areas, leaving everyone else in the dark.

The outdoor recreation industry injects \$16,000.000 in spending into Oregon's economy each year and creates thousands of largely rural jobs. Soaring insurance premiums and an unpredictable legal liability landscape is becoming unsustainable for outfitters and other small businesses. Service providers are forced to raise prices, which have made some activities unaffordable for many Oregon families, schools and organizations that depend on outfitters and other service providers for access to the outdoors.

Please vote NO on SB 1517. We ask instead that support be given to SB 1593 (ORCA2026) and HB 4071. These measures bring Oregon's liability landscape back in line with all other western states and provides the relief needed by ALL recreation service providers.

Sincerely,
Brian Sykes
Owner, Ouzel Outfitters