



February 16, 2026

Re: Oppose SB 1517

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

My name is Will Volpert, and I am the owner of Indigo Creek Outfitters, a family-run whitewater rafting company based in Phoenix, Oregon. I'm also the President of Wild Rogue Outfitters Association and a Committee Member of Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association.

I previously testified in opposition of the original SB 1517. Today I am again testifying in opposition of SB 1517 and amendments -6 and -7. While improved over earlier amendments, this bill falls well short of what's needed.

Recreation businesses in Oregon are facing a real insurance crisis. At Indigo Creek Outfitters, our liability insurance premiums have tripled in the last five years. SB 1517 will not help the situation. I know it, my industry knows it, and one special interest group, the OTLA, knows it as well. It would be alarming if the Oregon Senate advanced SB 1517 under the guise of helping businesses like mine when my entire industry, partners and supporters, and recreation users across the state, all adamantly oppose it.

Without meaningful waiver recognition, the market will remain unstable. 1517 will not bring insurers back, and it will not stabilize premiums. Creating a unique or unclear standard will make Oregon even more of an outlier. Our neighboring states understand the economic and social value of recreation and support our industry by their recognition of liability waivers. It's embarrassing that here in Oregon, where we have so many incredible places to recreate and reasons to love where we call home, bureaucratic red tape and insincere efforts are prioritizing the economic health of the legal services industry over recreation services that provide only-in-Oregon experiences that should be accessible to every family in the state.

SB 1593 has strong bipartisan support and directly addresses the insurance instability harming recreation providers across the state. It provides the certainty insurers need and the stability small businesses depend on.

I urge you to oppose SB 1517 and amendments -6 and -7 and instead focus your efforts on advancing SB 1593.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Will Volpert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Will Volpert
Owner, Indigo Creek Outfitters