

Submitter: Kevin Harter
On Behalf Of: Lucky Landings Guide Service
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kevin Harter. I own and operate Lucky Landings Guide Service. I spend my days on the water running fishing charters in the Pacific Ocean.

I am writing to oppose SB 1517 as amended by the -6 or -7 amendments and to support SB 1593.

Running a charter business is already high responsibility. We monitor weather, tides, mechanical systems, safety gear, Coast Guard regulations, and client readiness. Safety is not optional in our industry; it is the foundation of what we do.

But no matter how careful we are, we cannot eliminate all risk in ocean fishing. That's why liability waivers exist: not to excuse bad behavior, but to acknowledge inherent risk.

Right now, Oregon's legal environment makes it extremely difficult to secure affordable and reliable insurance. Premiums have increased sharply. Options have narrowed. Some providers have left the state entirely.

If this continues, small operators like me will be forced to raise prices or reconsider whether staying in business makes sense.

SB 1593 restores enforceable waivers for ordinary negligence while maintaining accountability for gross negligence. That is a fair and balanced approach.

SB 1517, even as amended, does not give insurers the predictability they need to confidently write policies in Oregon.

We are not asking to avoid responsibility. We are asking for reasonable protections that allow us to operate safely and sustainably.

Outdoor recreation is a major part of Oregon's economy and identity. Please support SB 1593 and oppose SB 1517 as amended.

Respectfully,
Kevin Harter

Owner & Captain
Lucky Landings Guide Service