

Submitter: Liam Hughes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

Dear House Rules Committee,

I have been in the Park and Recreation industry for over 17 years, and I am currently the Park and Recreation Director in Pendleton, Oregon. Over my time in the industry I seen a growth in issues surrounding liability in recreation. Insurance costs are rising and risk managers are advising against running certain activities all together. Many of these activities that we are being told not to run are ones I enjoyed as a child such as surfing and whitewater rafting. I would like to make sure the next generation has the same opportunities as I did.

I oppose SB 1517A as written because I believe the complicated exemptions will fail protect recreation providers and therefore reduce opportunities for the people we serve.

The professional associations I am a part of have supported SB 1593 and the protections that it provides which can also be found in the SB 1517 -A11 amendments which I support. I would also likely support other amendments that simplify the exemptions and allow the bill to achieve its goal.

I appreciate the work that so many people have put into finding a compromise. Thank you all for your work on this complex issue and your service to the public.

Liam Hughes
Pendleton, Oregon