

Submitter: Sam Drevo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the committee,

As a river and land steward, recreation providers and user, and nonprofit advocate, recreational liability protections are vital to the health and fitness of Oregonians.

We need liability waiver reform that aligns Oregon's laws with other states, reducing costs and creating greater certainty for small organizations. That in turn allows me and others to continue protecting access and opportunity for recreation and stewardship activities for Oregonians and visitors alike.

This session I have consistently shared my support for the policy language in SB 1593A as a workable solution that would meet our needs.

SB 1517A as passed the senate with the -7 will not provide our organizations with greater certainty or reduce our insurance costs. There is no protection for stewardship activities and the many explicit exceptions to what can be included in waivers would put us at even greater risk than the already untenable status quo.

However I would support the moving of SB 1517A forward with the -A11 or -A15 amendments. The -A11 amendment contains the language we've asking for all along, and we're also willing to trade the certainties of SB 1593A for the broad applicability of -A15 if that is the legislature's provided route toward a compromise.

Thank you for your leadership.

-Sam Drevo
Northwest River Guides LLC
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