

Submitter: Jessica Howard
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 land stewards, recreation providers and users, and nonprofit advocates, 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 us to continue protecting access and opportunity for recreation and stewardship activities alike.

This session we have consistently shared our 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 we could 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.