

Submitter: Kolbe Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General
Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

I am concerned over the state of liability related to outdoor recreation and its providers. I am a skier in both the Mt. Hood and Hoodoo areas, and have seen the challenges facing resorts, volunteer groups, and community members in addressing their increased liability and the associated costs. This has directly and significantly decreased the opportunities for Oregonians to enjoy the outdoors. I was a high school racer for the last four years, and there was a year where we were completely unable to ski at a specific resort one year due to insurance complications. With resorts already suffering from other factors, these liability issues will be a devastating blow not just to skiers and the resorts, but to the economies of skiing areas as well. If even one Mt. Hood resort shuts down, Government Camp will see a noticeable hit to its tourism.

Please support SB1593/HB4071, which will take great steps towards resolving the liability issues for all Oregonians who enjoy the outdoors. Similarly, I am opposed to SB1517, which only protects a small portion of the community and would have unintended impacts to non-resort entities that engage in outdoor recreation on and off the ski slopes in the state. Our outdoors are meant to be enjoyed by all, and those who provide important recreation services must be protected.

Thank you,
Kolbe Johnson