

Dear Committee members,

My name is Alex Smoot and I'm a professional engineer serving the construction industry in the Portland area. I am a long-time participant in downhill skiing and ski racing on Mt. Hood and a member of the Schnee Vogeli Ski Club. Currently, most ski racing clubs and organizations operate at ski resorts under their own liability insurance. Without liability protection, organizations like ours may be at risk of losing our insurance coverage similarly to what Oregon ski resorts are already experiencing.

Previously, I wrote in opposition to Oregon Senate Bill 1517 over concern that it provides insufficient liability protection for operators of winter sporting events both on and off of local ski resorts.

Now, I'd like to voice my support for ORCA2026, otherwise designated SB1593/HB4071. These bills would allow for the continued use of liability waivers at sporting events separately from those used by ski resorts. Without them, I fear for the future of my sport and others like it.

Thanks for you consideration,

Alex Smoot, PE