



February 16, 2026

Opposition to SB 1517-7: Recreation Liability

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Trails Coalition advisory council includes representatives from more than thirty federal, state, and local agencies, trail user groups, outdoor industry and tourism partners, and volunteer organizations. We represent walkers, bikers, runners, paddlers, equestrians, adaptive equipment users, skiers, snowmobilers, and motorized trail enthusiasts.

We are writing today to share our concerns with SB 1517 including the proposed -7 amendments

Many public agency and NGO partners within our coalition seek changes to Oregon waiver laws in line with neighboring states, allowing waivers to be enforced and improving insurability and reducing liability risk for non-profit organizations and small businesses who offer outdoor recreation and stewardship programming.

First, we are concerned that SB 1517-7 does not address the liability risk or insurance issues of organizations focused primarily on trails stewardship and restoration activities. Second, we are concerned that the long list of exceptions to claims that can be included in activity waivers leaves Oregon's trails-related non-profit organizations holding an untenable level of liability risk. We fully support the exception for "claims for greater than ordinary negligence, including gross negligence, reckless conduct, willful misconduct or intentional acts." We believe the other exceptions could put non-profit organizations working to increase safe access to the outdoors and fostering volunteer stewardship of our public lands at even greater risk.

Lastly for any law passed to rebalance Oregon's recreation liability laws, we would like to see the inclusion of all waivers signed by legal guardians included, not just those for minors. We put great value on all Oregonians having access to outdoor recreation and all members of our families participating together in outdoor recreation and stewardship activities as is safe and appropriate.

We hope for your support for a different path forward for more balanced Oregon law regarding recreation waivers.

Thank you,

Stephanie Noll, Director, Oregon Trails Coalition