

March 2, 2026

Representative Ben Bowman, Chair  
900 Court St. NE. H-295  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 1517A with the -A11 or -A15 Amendments

Chair Bowman, and members of the House Rules Committee

The City of Tualatin is deeply committed to providing safe and accessible recreational opportunities for our residents and for all who visit Oregon's communities. I write today to express my strong support for SB 1517A with the -A11 or -A15 Amendments, and to urge the Committee's action on this critical legislation. Without these amendments, I cannot support this bill—and without this bill, cities like Tualatin face serious and growing consequences for our recreational programs.

- Cities commonly offer or sponsor recreational opportunities and programs seeking to enrich the lives of those who live in Tualatin, and who can safely participate. Cities offer PE in the Park, mountain bike clinics, fun-runs, festivals, and wildlife viewing excursions to name a few.
- While these activities are generally safe under normal circumstances, they carry an inherent element of risk. It is essential that cities have the tools to inform participants of those risks—and that those conversations are documented through signed waivers that protect both participants and the public.
- To manage risk, cities utilize recreation liability waivers that are reviewed and signed by participants. Liability waivers present city employees with an opportunity to converse with participants about potential risks and talk about safety protocols that lead to successful excursions.
- Oregon's Supreme Court invalidated the use of liability waivers with the Bagley decision in 2014. In the decade-plus since that ruling, Tualatin and recreation providers across Oregon have faced dramatic, unsustainable increases in insurance costs—driving this industry toward collapse. Twelve years is too long. Oregon cities and recreation providers cannot wait any longer for a legislative fix. The current environment places Oregon at a serious competitive disadvantage relative to other states, and it is actively jeopardizing programs that our communities depend on.
- Codifying the legitimacy of recreation liability waivers gives Tualatin confidence we may continue offering recreation programs without the fear of unreasonable liability claims. We believe SB1517A with the -A11 or -A15 provides the security that cities need to continue providing safe and fun opportunities to recreate across Oregon.

Thank you,  
Frank Bubenik  
Mayor, City of Tualatin