



February 27, 2026

Rep. Ben Bowman, Chair  
Rep. Lucetta Elmer, Vice-Chair  
Rep. Hai Pham, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Legislature

**RE: Amend SB 1517A, -A11 or -A15**

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD), I write to express our opposition to SB 1517A as currently written, and to respectfully urge the Committee to adopt the -A11 or -A15 amendments.

THPRD serves more than 270,000 residents in and around Beaverton, Oregon. We operate over 120 parks, natural areas, trails, nature centers, aquatic facilities, sports fields, and recreation centers. Each year, hundreds of thousands of participants engage in our programs and services. Our hundreds of full- and part-time staff are dedicated to providing accessible, affordable, and inclusive recreation opportunities that strengthen community health and well-being.

THPRD and recreation providers across the state are experiencing rising insurance costs and increasingly limited coverage options. Clear, enforceable waivers are essential to protecting recreation providers and ensuring that Oregonians can continue to access the wide range of programs and services they rely on.

While SB 1517 seeks to address this issue, SB 1517A represents a step backward in the effort to protect recreation providers and the citizens we serve. As drafted, the bill provides little meaningful protection or certainty to local parks and recreation agencies. THPRD strongly supports the framework established in SB 1593, which provides comprehensive protections across indoor and outdoor recreation and allows minors to participate in activities with parental permission. Those same protections are reflected in the SB 1517 -A11 amendments, which we support.

We also recognize and deeply appreciate the significant effort that legislators, stakeholders, and advocates have invested in reaching a workable compromise. In that spirit, THPRD is willing to support the -A15 amendments. While the -A15 amendments may require us to give up certain specific protections, they offer broader applicability of waivers and, importantly, provide clarity and certainty to our district and local parks and recreation agencies across Oregon.

This is a complex issue with real operational and financial consequences for local governments. We respectfully urge the Committee to amend SB 1517A by adopting the -A11 or -A15 amendments so that we can finally achieve clarity and a durable path forward.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your public service. We stand ready to assist the Committee in any way that would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Aisha Panas  
Deputy General Manager  
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District