

Submitter: Megan Schneider
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the committee, As someone who skis and loves spending time on the lands across our state, I care deeply about maintaining access to recreation in Oregon. Recreational liability protections are vital to the health, fitness, and well-being of Oregonians like me who rely on these opportunities. We need liability waiver reform that aligns Oregon's laws with other states, reducing costs and creating greater certainty for the small organizations that make recreation possible. When those organizations have clarity and stability, it helps preserve access and opportunities for recreation and stewardship activities alike. The policy language in SB 1593A appears to be a workable solution that would meet these needs.

SB 1517A, as passed the Senate with the -7 amendment, would not provide greater certainty or help reduce insurance costs. It does not protect stewardship activities, and the many explicit exceptions to what can be included in waivers would create even greater risk than the already untenable status quo.

I would support moving SB 1517A forward with the -A11 or -A15 amendments. The -A11 amendment contains the language many in the recreation community have been asking for. The broader applicability of the -A15 amendment also seems like a reasonable way forward if that is the legislature's available path toward compromise.

Thank you for your leadership.