

March 1, 2026

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

As land stewards, recreation providers and users, and nonprofit advocates, we know that strong recreational liability protections are essential to the health and fitness of Oregonians. Oregon needs liability waiver reform that aligns with other states, reduces costs, and provides greater certainty for small organizations. These improvements will help ensure that outdoor recreation groups can continue safeguarding access to recreation and stewardship opportunities across the state.

In this session, the Protect Oregon Recreation coalition has consistently supported the policy language in SB 1593A as a workable solution that meets the needs of the outdoor recreation community.

SB 1517A, as passed with the -7 amendment, does not offer the certainty or insurance relief that organizations need. It provides no protection for stewardship activities, and its numerous exceptions to waiver enforceability would leave ski areas at even greater risk than the already untenable status quo.

However, we could support moving SB 1517A forward with either the -A11 or -A15 amendments. The -A11 amendment reflects the language we have requested throughout this process, and we are also willing to accept the broader applicability of -A15 as a compromise if that is the Legislature's chosen path.

Sincerely,

Ulla Brunette