

Submitter: Joel Stevens

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 a property owner in Government Camp, an outdoor recreation enthusiast and a long term member of several nonprofits providing outdoor safety education, I believe liability protections are vital to the health and fitness of Oregon residents, ski areas, outfitters, guides and visitors.

We need liability waiver reform that aligns Oregon's laws with those of other states, reducing costs and creating greater certainty for small organizations. That in turn enables our many outdoor recreation organizations to continue protecting access and opportunities for recreation and stewardship activities alike.

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

SB 1517A, as passed by the -7 will not provide our organizations with greater certainty or reduce our insurance costs. There is no protection for stewardship activities and the many explicit exceptions to what can be included in waivers would put the ski areas at even greater risk than the already untenable status quo.

However, we could support the moving of SB 1517A forward with the -A11 or -A15 amendments. The -A11 amendment contains the language we've been asking for all along, and we're also willing to trade the certainties of SB 1593A for the broad applicability of -A15 if that is the legislature's provided route toward a compromise.

Signed,
Joel Stevens