



March 1, 2026

Chair and members of the committee,

Travel Lane County respectfully **opposes SB 1517A as written**. As the destination organization for all of Lane County, we strongly support efforts to improve recreational liability laws in Oregon, but the current version of SB 1517 contains ambiguities and exceptions that create uncertainty and represent a step backward.

Outdoor recreation plays a significant role in Lane County's 4,700 square miles of beautiful landscapes and throughout the rest of Oregon. However, Oregon's current liability waiver standard threatens the ability of our local businesses, outdoor groups, and non-profits to provide recreation and fitness opportunities to residents and visitors.

Travel Lane County supports businesses like ski resorts, gyms, guides and outfitters, and many more who operate in the outdoor recreation sphere and beyond affected by the out-of-balance nature of the current requirements.

Our region hosts a large number of cycling, running, trail and sports events that require liability waivers to be signed by participants. The potential for an event not occurring increases as event expenses rise or the liability risk becomes too high for the event organizer. It would be difficult to quantify the potential number of lost room nights at this time, however, visitor experience is affected when outdoor recreation opportunities become less available or are priced so high that they become inaccessible. Should there be fewer opportunities for visitors to consider, extending a stay becomes less likely.

Our small businesses face enormous economic and, for some, environmental challenges. Having a reasonable standard for liability waivers creates a more level playing field for Oregon businesses while continuing to protect visitors from gross negligence on the part of operators who don't have the best interest of their customers as a top priority.

Travel Lane County has supported SB1593. The **-A11 amendments** to SB 1517 achieve those same protections. Action on this issue is critical and –A15 amendments move the policy forward and provide broader applicability of waivers. We encourage the amendment of SB1517 to support our recreation businesses and visitor access to quintessential experiences.

Respectfully submitted,

Samara Phelps

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President & CEO