



March 2, 2026

House Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: SB 1517**

The Oregon City Parks and Recreation Department (about 38 FTE), serves residents and the surrounding community through 26 parks and an extensive trail network, providing recreation, leisure, and cultural programs for all ages and abilities—including aquatics, youth and adult programming, community services, special events, and stewardship of facilities like Mt. View Cemetery, Clackamette RV Park, and the historic Ermatinger House.

Oregon City, as a member of the Oregon Recreation and Park Association, has been advocating for improvements to recreational liability waivers to make them more meaningful and relevant to the activities we offer Oregonians.

We have been pleased that multiple bills have taken this issue on. We are incredibly supportive of SB 1593, which includes all types of recreation and makes waivers available to minors so youth can participate in recreational activities with their families or pursue their own passions with their parents' permission.

SB 1517 has a similar framework for activities and youth, but unfortunately, the exceptions beginning in Section 1(3) complicate, confuse, and contradict the intent of the bill.

The Senate passed SB 1517 with the acknowledgement that more work is needed. It must be amended. The exceptions must be changed. We hope you can act quickly to fix the bill, and we stand ready to help in any way.

Please continue working on this important issue, and thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

Kelly Hart  
City of Oregon City

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