

Submitter: Andrew Maeda  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

Chair Bowman and Members of the House Rules Committee,

My name is Andrew Maeda, and I serve as Executive Director with the Ontario Recreation District. Our agency serves most of the upper Malheur County, providing recreational opportunities to approximately 3500 individuals annually through programs such as youth sports, aquatics, outdoor recreation, camps, senior programming, etc.

We respectfully oppose SB 1517A as written. While we strongly support efforts to improve recreational liability laws in Oregon, the current version of SB 1517 contains ambiguities and exceptions that create uncertainty and represent a step backward in the effort to protect recreation providers and the communities we serve.

Our agency has supported SB 1593 and the protections it provides. We believe the framework reflected in the -A11 amendments to SB 1517 achieves those same protections in a clearer and more workable manner, and we support adoption of those amendments.

We also recognize and appreciate the significant work that has gone into seeking compromise on this issue. In that spirit, we are agreeable to supporting the -A15 amendments, understanding that while they may not include every preferred protection, they move the policy forward and provide broader applicability of waivers and greater certainty for local parks and recreation providers across Oregon.

We appreciate the Committee's attention to this complex issue and hope that adoption of the compromise amendments will provide clarity and a practical path forward.

Thank you for your time and public service.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Maeda  
Executive Director  
Ontario Recreation District  
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