



March 2, 2026

Representative Ben Bowman, Chair
900 Court St. NE, H-295
Salem, OR 97301

RE: LOC Opposes SB 1517A; Supports With Adoption of -A11 or -A15 Amendments

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Elmer and Vice-Chair Pham, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

The League of Oregon Cities represents 241 incorporated cities geographically dispersed throughout Oregon's diverse landscape. Oregon cities cherish the opportunity to provide safe recreational opportunities for people who live in their cities, and for those who travel to recreate across Oregon cities. While well intended, the League opposes SB 1517A but drafted amendments on OLIS could move us to a support position. We respectfully ask the committee to consider adopting either the -A11 or -A15 amendment.

It is not uncommon for cities to sponsor or offer recreational opportunities and programs seeking to enrich the lives of those who live in Oregon cities, and who can safely participate. Cities offer PE in the Park, mountain bike clinics, fun-runs, triathlons and festivals, to name a few. These are generally considered safe activities under normal circumstances but do carry an inherent element of risk that is important to identify with participants. Cities utilize recreational liability waivers that are reviewed and signed by participants and parents of participants. The process provides event staff with an opportunity to converse with participants about potential risks and talk about safety protocols that lead to successful excursions.

Recreation and adventure-based industries across Oregon have been operating at a competitive disadvantage since the Supreme Court ruled against recreational liability waivers more than 10 years ago. These businesses are important to our local economies and contribute mightily to achieving goals around wellness in our communities. Recreation operators in surrounding states are not suffering the same liability environment and are therefore able to obtain insurance more readily and at more affordable rates. The stark increases in insurance costs have created an even more unfair playing field for Oregon's small recreation businesses operating in frontier areas of the state. Passing SB 1517A with the -A11 or -A15 amendment provides the relief that is needed to sustain these businesses.

Codifying the legitimacy of recreation liability waivers gives cities and the recreation industry confidence to continue offering recreational programs and opportunities without the fear of unreasonable liability claims. We believe SB1517A, amended with the -A11 or

the -A15, provides the clarity necessary to continue providing safe and fun opportunities to recreate across Oregon.

The League would like to recognize all of the hard work that has gone into this issue in the 2026 session. We have seen an extraordinary effort to work on a compromise, and we are grateful for that. With days left until Sine Die, it's not too late to create legislation that works for all. **We urge you to adopt the -A11 or -A15 amendment.**

Thank you,

Greg Miller
League of Oregon Cities