



03/03/2025
Oregon Motorcycle Rider's Association
PO Box 1280
Tualatin, OR 97062

Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Pham and Elmer, members of the Committee

Please oppose SB 1517 unless amended by the -15, or 11

The Oregon Motorcycle Rider's Association is a nonprofit organization representing OHV enthusiasts and volunteers. We work for a safe, responsible, and sustainable future for off-road vehicle recreation, and coordinate countless motorized events and thousands of hours of trail volunteers to that end. We urge you to support the - 15 amendment - or allow this bill to die.

Like last session's SB 179, the landowner recreation immunity bill, the same special interest group has created a bill - SB1517-A - framed as a real solution to a real problem. They are and were not. Both are not merely wrong, but bad lawmaking and bad statecraft.

For over a decade, the Oregon ski and health club industry's efforts to correct these errors have proven ineffective. A more transparent conversation will be necessary to shed light on Oregon's TLA's history of engagement with these two principles: liability waivers for activities with inherent risks and recreation landowner immunity (which was only made worse last session).

Just as certain well-known groups at the federal level do, the TLA defines the term "political corruption." And by corruption, I mean the improper allocation of political power - contrary to our democracy's framers intent. Just as Americans overwhelmingly favor common-sense gun law reform, Oregonians overwhelmingly favor these two areas of ordinary negligence immunity. And yet, the people are left similarly disheartened and ignored. Oregonians are eager to return these issues to the status they had 15 years ago (but even clearer and more durable).

These two immunity principles are not beyond Oregonians' comprehension - with the right campaign. I've heard trial lawyers' best arguments, nationwide, and they cannot win this public contest of ideas - that is, if the ideas and their merit were all that were on the scale. Sadly, it's not, by a long shot. We will campaign on that fact.

I've volunteered to help write and pass legislation in our Capitol since 1986. For 40 years, I've encouraged folks on the left and right about how meaningful these experiences have been for me -wins and losses; and to take heart in the knowledge that the majority of the forces here are people who revere the privilege of statecraft bestowed upon them. Like never before, I'm stirred to action today and through the next election cycles because that's being called into question, and that's painful.

Please adopt the -15 amendment, or decline to advance SB 1517

Barrett Brown

Oregon Motorcycle Rider's Association