

Submitter: Peny Wallace

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

OPPOSE SB1517 A without either Amendment 11 or 15 as described in the Staff Measure

Summary dated 3/2/26.

I am a Member and past Board member of the Hood River Outrigger Canoe Club (hoodriveroutrigger.com), one of 20 Oregon outrigger canoe clubs that belong to the Pacific

Northwest Outrigger Racing Clubs (pnworca.org). In 2025 HROCC had 94 Members (ages

25-83), seventy-two guests and provided water safety and on-the-water experiences to 152

youths and adults (ages 5-60 years old) through our community outreach program.

Our

outreach programs work with Hood River Valley Schools (8th Grade and School Administration),

the nonprofit Viento y Agua and the Options School. For 4 years I was also the main facilitator

and outreach coordinator for New Paddlers being introduced to the Club.

Outdoor recreation and exercise are important to our health and well-being. It is also important

to understand the duties and responsibilities associated with outdoor recreation activities and

working together as a group. At HROCC we take our physical love of the sport and safety very

seriously.

Our Club requires all participants (parents or guardians for minors) to sign liability waivers

before engaging in a Club activity. Participants are required to wear personal floatation devices,

receive water and boat safety information before, during and after being in the canoe.

Safety is

a primary concern of our club. Each year we have successfully conducted huli dills, which is the

safety protocol in a 6-man canoe if it flips over,

SB 1517A without amendments A11 or A15 does not adequately protect outdoor recreation and

stewardship organizations and may increase risk exposure for nonprofits, small businesses,

public agencies, and even volunteer board members.

SB1517 A includes so many exceptions that it could make today's litigious climate even worse.

The multiple conditions and exceptions listed in SB1517 are intended to limit claims for ordinary negligence arising out of or resulting from participation in a sport, equipment and facility use, or volunteering to maintain facilities or places used for a recreational activity. If someone voluntarily participates in an activity it is reasonable that they accept the risks inherent associated with that activity.

I understand that it is a delicate balance to protect both the rights of individuals participating in outdoor recreation activities with inherent risks while, at the same time, protecting the rights of organizations and businesses to provide those opportunities so we can continue to encourage outdoor recreation in Oregon for our residents and guests.

Please move SB1517A to the House Rules Committee for hearing and work session so that the balanced and practical liability protections set forth in either A-11 or A-15 are included.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peny Wallace- Hood River Outrigger Canoe Club Past member at Large & current Member