

Submitter: Pieter Ganzer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

My name is Pieter Ganzer, and I am writing to you today to oppose SB 1517 and express my firm support for SB 1593 / HB 4071 (ORCA 2026).

I am an Oregonian who has been skiing our mountains since 1981. Over the last four decades, I have seen the skiing community from every possible angle; as a parent, a board member for high school ski teams, a volunteer race official, and as a current recreational racer and volunteer helper.

I believe that SB 1517 is not the solution Oregon needs.

While I appreciate the intent to address the crisis facing our ski resorts, SB 1517 is overly narrow. By focusing only on a small subset of the community, this bill ignores over a decade of recorded public support for a balanced, all-inclusive reform that protects all forms of outdoor recreation.

As someone who was deeply involved in the organizational side of high school racing, I am particularly concerned that SB 1517 fails to address the "non-resort entities" that make our community thrive. Our high school teams, volunteer-led racing clubs, and non-profit organizations are the backbone of the mountain. Yet, under SB 1517, these groups remain in a legal "no man's land," still facing the same skyrocketing insurance premiums and liability risks that are pricing families out of the outdoors.

SB 1517 harms all recreation waiver users by picking winners and losers in the outdoor industry. We should not be forced to choose which activities deserve protection and which do not.

I urge you to support SB 1593 / HB 4071 (ORCA 2026). This is the all-inclusive, balanced approach Oregonians have been asking for. It provides legal clarity for all providers, from the smallest non-profit club to the largest resort, ensuring that the next generation of Oregonians can continue to enjoy the mental and physical benefits of our outdoors.

Please do not move forward with a partial fix that leaves our community behind. Support SB 1593 and HB 4071.

Thank you for your time and for protecting Oregon's recreational future.

Sincerely,
Pieter Ganzer
Beaverton, OR