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February 3, 2026

Re: Opposition to SB 1517

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee-

I submit this testimony on behalf of Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK), our 350 members, and thousands of annual volunteers. Our mission is to protect and restore the Tualatin River watershed, and we know that residents will protect what they love. Since our founding in 1993, our river trips and stewardship projects have exposed tens of thousands of residents to the Tualatin River, and many of these same residents are its most vocal protectors.

As our number of volunteers and paddle trip participants has increased to more than 5,000 annually, we have come to understand the need for recreational liability protections. To that end, we strongly oppose SB 1517. Since the 2025 legislative session, our partners - including some of the largest conservation organizations in the state - have come together to support liability waiver reform. We were rather disappointed to see the introduction of a bill that would only protect a single industry, in opposition to SB 1593, which represents a balanced, reasonable framework that restores enforceable waivers for all recreation organizations while upholding operator responsibility.

With respect to the ski industry, we encourage the committee to oppose SB 1517, with recognition that SB 1593 will provide the protections necessary to so many of our partner organizations that work tirelessly to protect our state's precious natural resources.

Best Regards,

Glenn Fee
Executive Director