



February 3, 2026

Opposition to SB 1517: Liability Related to Skiing

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

The Oregon Trails Coalition advisory council includes representatives from more than thirty federal, state, and local agencies, trail user groups, outdoor industry and tourism partners, and volunteer organizations. We represent walkers, bikers, runners, paddlers, equestrians, adaptive equipment users, skiers, snowmobilers, and motorized trail enthusiasts.

We are writing today to share our concerns with SB 1517.

Many public agency and NGO partners within our coalition seek changes to Oregon waiver laws in line with neighboring states, allowing waivers to be enforced and improving insurability and reducing liability risk for non-profit organizations and small businesses who offer outdoor recreation and stewardship programming.

We are concerned that SB 1517 does not address the liability risk or insurance issues of trails-related organizations and it does not include minor releases which are crucial for families participating together in outdoor recreation and stewardship activities. We are also concerned about the precedent set of the requirement to sign natural hazards not readily visible from a distance of 100 feet on trails, which may not be practicable in always changing natural environments.

We hope for your support for a different path forward for more balanced Oregon law regarding recreation waivers.

Thank you,

Stephanie Noll,
Director, Oregon Trails Coalition