



CITY OF BEND

City Hall  
710 NW Wall Street  
Bend, OR 97703

February 3, 2026

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Oregon State Capitol

900 Court Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97701

RE: SB 1517 Letter of Opposition

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

I'm speaking today as a City of Bend Councilor, representing a community whose economy and quality of life are deeply tied to recreation, health, and fitness.

I want to be clear about my concern with SB 1517. I do not support approaches that **pick winners and losers within the recreation and fitness industry**. A ski-only bill fails to reflect the reality we see in Bend and across Central Oregon. Liability challenges are not confined to one activity. They affect gyms, guides, outfitters, youth programs, nonprofits, and community-based recreation providers throughout our region.

Our recreation economy functions as an interconnected system. When legislation focuses on one segment and leaves others exposed, it creates inequity, confusion, and instability. That fragmentation makes it harder for businesses to operate responsibly, harder for workers to rely on stable employment, and harder for families to access affordable recreation.

I'm also concerned that **parental releases are not addressed** in SB 1517. Many providers in Bend serve youth and families. Without clarity in this area, camps, instruction programs, and nonprofit organizations remain at risk—even if other parts of the industry receive relief.

As drafted, SB 1517 contains **harmful and ambiguous provisions** that could actually **increase liability exposure**, rather than reduce it. From my perspective, this bill is a non-starter. Legal ambiguity drives up insurance costs, discourages participation, and adds risk for providers who are already operating on thin margins.

There is a better path forward. **SB 1593—the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026—offers a comprehensive, industry-wide solution.** It recognizes that recreation, fitness, and sport should be treated together, not in silos, and that consistency and clarity matter.

This issue is not just about businesses. It's about **workers, families, consumers, and access to affordable recreation**. Many providers are small businesses, family-owned operations, or nonprofits deeply rooted in their communities. Protecting this industry means protecting the people it serves. I urge you to focus on a comprehensive solution that supports affordability, safety, access, and economic stability for the entire recreation and health and fitness industry.

Thank you,

Megan Perkins, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Bend