

February 4, 2026

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

My name is Lauren Bagley, mother of Myles Bagley, the Plaintiff in the unanimous 2014 Supreme Court decision Bagley vs. Mt Bachelor. I am here today to express my support for Senate Bill 1517 during the 2026 Regular Session.

I have been fighting the issue of protecting Oregon's citizens civil and constitutional rights relating to liability waivers since 2006. After my son Myles was injured at Mt Bachelor in 2006, became a paraplegic and confined to a wheelchair, I knew that many injured parties needed a recourse through the Courts to hold wrongdoers accountable for their negligence. I saw how difficult and long the process was, but the fight to have **RIGHTS and a VOICE AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE**, kept us moving forward. My son Myles and I have made numerous trips to testify on this issue, since 2015 and as recent as June 2025. Hundreds of miles, hundreds of phone calls and letters and hundreds of points of disbelief as the ski industry tries to snow lawmakers continuously.

for over 10 years the ski operators and now other recreational businesses have been trying to make people sign enforceable waivers giving up their rights if they negligent hurt their customers **all in the name of supposedly getting lower insurance rates. There are no guarantees from insurance companies that they will lower the rates** and instead of forcing people to sign away their rights, how about a ski statute that outlines the responsibilities of ski resorts to keep their customers safe. If they follow this ski statute law, they can't be sued for negligence.

Senate Bill 1517 provides a fair and well-balanced update to The 1979 Oregon Ski Statute, the law governing civil liability related to skiing. The bill clearly defines the inherent risks of skiing while also establishing reasonable and necessary duties for ski area operators related to inspection, hazard marking, constructed features, and compliance with nationally recognized safety standards.

This Bill sets guardrails on the ski industry to keep their paying customers safe. If the business is negligent and they hurt someone, it gives injured consumers the right to hold them accountable – and not force them to give up their constitutional rights by signing a waiver! It preserves Oregon's current public policy against overly broad pre-injury waivers. This is key in my support for this Senate Bill.

By clarifying expectations for both skiers and operators, SB 1517 promotes safety, transparency, and fairness while supporting the continued viability of Oregon's outdoor recreation industry. For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of Senate Bill 1517. Thank you for your time.

Myles and Lauren Bagley
Bend, Oregon