

Submitter: Dave Tragethon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

URGENT: OPPOSE SB 1517 – Protect Oregon’s Recreation Economy and Inherent Risk Standards

?Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

?I am writing as a member of the Northwest Ski Club Council (NWSCC) to express my strong opposition to SB 1517. This bill represents a significant threat to the future of outdoor recreation in Oregon.

?As a skier, I recognize and accept that our sport involves inherent risks. When I head to the mountain, I do so with the understanding that the environment is dynamic. SB 1517 attempts to shift that responsibility entirely onto operators, creating an impossible standard for mountain safety that will invite endless, costly litigation. This bill is a boon for trial lawyers but a disaster for Oregonians who cherish the outdoors.

?Furthermore, Oregon’s recreation economy is currently in a state of crisis. With only one insurer left willing to provide liability coverage in the state, premiums have skyrocketed. SB 1517 will drive remaining insurers away and put thousands of jobs in our mountain towns at risk. By making it easier to sue providers and harder for them to obtain insurance, this bill threatens to make skiing and other outdoor activities unaffordable for ordinary Oregon families.

?Instead of advancing SB 1517, I urge you to support the ORCA Act (SB 1593 / HB 4071). We should follow the lead of 43 other states by supporting reasonable waivers and common-sense liability reform that keeps recreation safe, accessible, and insured.

?Please vote NO on SB 1517.

?Sincerely,

Dave Tragethon
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