

Submitter:

Tyler Wendt

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1517

Dear Chairman Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I'm Tyler Wendt, President of OARS, a family-owned and -operated seasonal recreation company bringing guests to float the Rogue River since the 1970s. We are alarmed by SB 1517 and its intentional carve out for ski areas while we and all other users of release and waiver documents are left completely on the sidelines of common sense legislation. Our small business and the entire rural recreation economy in Oregon is based the on the logical notion that outdoor adventure involves inherent risks, which cannot be entirely mitigated without fundamentally reducing or eliminating the experience.

Our insurance company mandates that all of our guests be required to sign a release and waiver document. Unenforceable waivers in the state of Oregon represent an acute problem, whereby thousands of small businesses like ours are exposed to undue liability for inherent risks embraced by our customers seeking adventure. All other Western states accept the use of waivers as a reasonable component of a contract for recreational service providers.

SB 1517 is a distraction and ignores widespread support from the vast outdoor recreation economy for the ORCA2026 Act. Please, for the love of Oregon's wild spaces, oppose SB 1517 and instead support SB 1593 and HB 4701.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Tyler Wendt
President
OARS