



February 9, 2023

Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 754 Recreational Liability Reform

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

Next Adventure has been Oregon's "Alternative Outdoor Store" for more than 25 years. We have four brick-and-mortar stores in Portland, Sandy, and Scappoose Bay and a strong national ecommerce operation. Our vision statement is "A real adventure company leading change in our community" and we are a strongly [values-based organization](#).

In 2021, Next Adventure was the target of an opportunistic lawsuit which came very close to destroying our business. Just a few years ago we offered our customers a robust schedule of trips, tours, classes, and clinics to help them learn to use the outdoor gear that we sell. Due to the lawsuit, we made the decision to shut down all outdoor programming to protect our business from further liability exposure.

Our rates for liability insurance have increased dramatically, which further weakens our ability to support and sustain our 175 employees. We feel it is important to understand that this issue is ***not hypothetical***. Oregon has an extraordinary natural environment that can benefit both Oregonians and visitors from around the world but our state's out-of-balance liability situation is creating real barriers, real impacts, and real losses every single year.

We must achieve a better balance between personal responsibility and business accountability if we are to get the full benefit of the natural wonders this state has to offer.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Deek Heykamp, Co-founder and President

Next Adventure, Inc.
426 SE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97214
503-701-7414