

February 15, 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:

As a constituent and small business owner, I am asking for your support of liability waiver reform in Oregon – SB 754. As a small business that hosts indoor recreation for children, our standards for safety are high. But due to recent legal decisions, Oregon is the only state in the western US (1 of 11) where liability waivers offer no meaningful protection against claims of ordinary negligence. This puts uncertainty on the viability of my business in the case of an incident. It also has increased my insurance costs and reduced the pool of available insurers available to me.

I am a supporter of the "Protect Oregon Recreation" effort which has the support of not only businesses, but of users and consumers of recreation. The waiver situation affects recreation for all Oregonians, and without reform, we stand to lose many activities that are taken for granted now - including recreation in the Gorge, Skiing/Snowboarding, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding, Indoor Recreation such as Wippersnappers, and much more.

I hope you can support us in returning Oregon to the same liability standards as every other western state. Like California and Washington, individuals who engage in inherently risky activities will accept responsibility for their activity, while businesses will remain accountable for grossly negligent behavior.

Sincerely,

Hans Wipper  
Owner  
Wippersnappers Kids Play Place  
503-819-0712 Cell  
<http://www.wippersnappers.com>