



February 13, 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:

I am writing this on behalf of, Anthony Lakes Outdoor Recreation Association (ALORA), a 501c3 non-profit which owns and operates, Anthony Lakes Ski Area near Baker City Oregon, along with management of several US Forest Service campgrounds, a bike and ski shop in Baker City, a hike/bike tour company as well as management of Quail Ridge Golf Course (municipal golf course in Baker City). Our organization now bears an unnecessary burden and increased liability risk because liability waivers have been tossed out in the state of Oregon. In addition, upon our insurance renewal this past fall, we were informed by our insurance carrier that no mountain biking activities will be covered in the State of Oregon. There is no indication if this will stop with just mountain biking.

ALORA has grown from a near failing ski area with one year-round employee 13 years ago to operating the aforementioned businesses that employ over 100 local residents on an annual basis. ALORA prides itself on hiring local people, spending as many dollars locally as we possibly can, and placing a significant emphasis on providing access to outdoor sports for youth and underprivileged members of our community.

The actions taken by the Oregon Supreme Court that removed the validity of liability waivers has placed our business in significant jeopardy. As a small non-profit located in Northeastern Oregon, we are not in a position to find an insurance carrier that will cover our business model and activities for a premium that we can afford, if at all. This is only true for the state of Oregon and based solely on the lack of protection by liability waivers. There must be a better balance between personal responsibility and business accountability.

This letter is written in full support of SB 754 as the future of our business and recreation as a whole does depend on it. We are asking for your full consideration and support of this bill.

Peter Johnson
President
Anthony Lakes Outdoor Recreation Association