



TO: The Oregon Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood
FR: Dennis Littlefield, Executive Director, Camp Tilikum
DA: April 3, 2015
RE: Testimony in Support of HB 3292

Chair Sara Gelsler, Members of the Committee, my name is Dennis Littlefield and I am the Executive Director of Camp Tilikum located in Newberg, Oregon since 1971. In 2014 we served 2,700 children, youth and families through our 40 different summer camp programs. The rest of the year we hosted more than 200 rental groups bringing 5,500 people to our camp. I am here today to testify in support of HB 3292, which will clarify in statute the role and relationship between camp facilities and the programs they run from rental of the camp facility to outside groups.

In addition to the thousands of kids who come to Tilikum, we also host a large number of groups who bring in their own programming. We are not unusual. Essentially all the camps in the United States host some rental groups who run their own programs. This structure is necessary to meet the operating costs of owning a camp site, but it does create some risk when you allow other organizations to come in and run a program on your site. School and church groups and many others make up the type of renters of summer camps. Camp owners take seriously the importance of defining landlord/renter roles and responsibilities with our rental contracts. While camps are willing to be responsible for the programs and participants who are under their control, it is problematic for camps to be assigned complete liability for all the groups who rent their facilities and run their own programs.

Camp Tilikum supports this bill. I have been involved over the last eight years on a number of committees to address these issues in the Administrative Rules, but there are some limitations in the statute for fully addressing the issue of assigning liability. If we cannot resolve this issue, it could seriously hinder our ability to rent to other groups and therefore be financially devastating for camps across Oregon. I'm confident this bill has the support of the organized camps in Oregon.

HB 3292 will clarify in statute the role of camps and those who rent our facilities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.