



Bicycle Tours

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:

Cog Wild Bicycle Tours LLC is a family business that provides guided mountain bike rides, skills instruction and daily shuttle service in Bend and Oakridge as well as multi-day adventures on the backcountry trails throughout Oregon. We've been in business since 2006 and employ an average of 24 people. We are proud to operate in a state that prioritizes the natural world and encourages outdoor recreation.

Although mountain biking is an inherently risky sport, we make every effort to ensure that our clients have a safe and enjoyable experience with us. Our staff are trained to mitigate risk: Guides and coaches are incentivized to pursue Wilderness First Aid or a Wilderness First Responder certification, we practice rescue and emergency procedures at our annual mandatory staff trainings, clients are provided skills instruction and an introduction to a modern mountain bike to before each ride, and we stay off the trails when environmental conditions are not suitable for being outside such as super saturated, slick trails or unhealthy AQI.

Oregon needs to establish a balanced approach between personal responsibility and business accountability like all other Western states, otherwise we won't be able to maintain an outdoor recreation business. Our insurance costs have steadily increased over the past five years, about 15% increase per year. While we maintain \$2 million in liability insurance coverage, a lawsuit would shut us down with lawyer fees and staff time devoted to fighting a charge.

As you debate and grapple with the contents of SB 754, please consider the importance of outdoor related tourism to the economy of Oregon and the general happiness and wellbeing of our residents and visitors. Our small business is valuable to the tourism community and provides a service that helps people get outside. We'd like to continue to safely take people mountain biking and to live in a state that supports & encourages small guide and outfitter businesses.

Sincerely,

Lev and Kirin Styker
Owners & Operators