



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:

The Mt. Ashland Ski Area first opened in 1964 as an anchor for recreation and tourism in southern Oregon. It has been operated by the nonprofit Mt. Ashland Association since 1992, to serve as a community asset and bolster the economy and quality of life for the Rogue Valley and nearby counties. Our mission is simple: To provide healthy recreation in an alpine environment. As a nonprofit ski area, part of our community promise is to remain a cherished community resource for generations to come, while also introducing snowsports to the learners of all ages. Our programs are geared heavily toward providing services to the families and children of our community. Pricing is aimed at sustainability and accessibility; as there are no shareholders any profits are reinvested to serve our mission.

The single largest factor in increasing our ticket prices has been corresponding increases in insurance coverage. Insurance costs have increased 118% since 2014. As a direct result we have unfortunately had to increase ticket prices by 61% in that same period. This is our most significant challenge in delivering on our nonprofit mission and serving our community.

We believe in the balanced practice used in other Western states, where recreation providers are held accountable for gross negligence while participants have personal responsibility for their decisions and actions. This approach ensures the highest level of safety for participants and helps keep recreation opportunities affordable and equitable for all Oregonians. Please support SB 754 and waiver reform in Oregon to help nonprofit recreation providers keep programs equitable and accessible for our families and children.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Gast, General Manager
Mt. Ashland Ski Area / Mt. Ashland Association