

## **BEND PADDLE TRAIL**



2/12/2023

Esteemed Legislators, Judiciary committee members:

Oregon's recreation landscape is under threat. Without certainty of what a liability waiver indemnifies, many businesses and non-profits will be challenged to carry on as we have in the past. Liability waivers form the backbone of most non-profit volunteer activities. Without certainty that organizations and their officers are shielded from liability related to typical volunteer activities, the social fabric of community activism will be torn asunder.

Without court enforceability of liability waivers, much of the outdoor economy, recreational facility operators and volunteer efforts mustered through non-profit organizations to better our great state will cease to exist. Liability insurance policies are already a cost burden to many businesses, recreation facilities and non-profit organizations, and those premiums are increasing in orders of magnitude of cost in the current environment. We need a mandated liability release for participation to bring certainty back to the insurance marketplace.

We urge your support for HB754 to provide reform to close liability loopholes and keep Oregon a national leader in outdoor recreation and conservation.

Bend Paddle Trail Alliance:

Justin Rae – President

Jayson Bowerman – Vice President

Stephen Junkins – Secretary

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