



February 17, 2023

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 754 Recreational Liability Reform

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Senate Committee,

Willamette Pass Resort has been a pivotal part of Oakridge and Eugene since 1941, providing recreational and employment opportunities and a direct, positive economic impact to these communities. Since our family's involvement more than four decades ago, we have pioneered many "firsts," including the state's first six-person, high-speed detachable lift, the first snowmaking and ticketing/access systems in the Northwest, the first magic carpet lift in the state and much more.

With our new partnership with Mountain Capital Partners, we expect even more "firsts" to come. It's truly an exciting time in our resort history, although our vision for the future is slightly diminished as we consider the deficiency in protections through the current recreational liability waiver law in Oregon. We know firsthand that all other western states enforce releases of liability.

Without these critical protections we have had to make some difficult decisions and we're still considering scaling back our recreational offerings, particularly our plan for the addition of a summer mountain bike park at Willamette Pass.

Our industry is focused on education, risk management, and operational best practices to provide the safest experience possible for our guests, but there is simply no way to remove the risks that are inherent to participating in these outdoor activities. Liability waivers are an effective way of providing protection for the resort and informing guests of the risks of the activity and their responsibilities for safety.

The protections granted in SB 754 would allow us to meet the demands of our communities for recreation in the Willamette Pass forest. We urge the Committee to support SB 754 and take a step forward in protecting safe and accessible recreation experiences and strengthening Oregon's growing recreational economy.

Sincerely,

Tim Wiper  
Owner, Willamette Pass Resort