



DUEY STROEBEL

STATE SENATOR • 20TH DISTRICT

Senate Bill 463

I would like to thank you, Senator Moulton, for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 463 and allowing me the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 463. This bill will reduce much of the liability exposure for ski areas that charge for mountain biking at their facilities.

The increased popularity of mountain biking has seen ski areas across the globe open their doors to the sport in the summer months. In fact, some ski areas have offered mountain biking for well over a decade. With over 30 ski areas located throughout the state, Wisconsin has the third most ski areas of any state with an economic impact of over \$240 million. This bill will provide the opportunity for job growth, increased tourism and revenue in these areas.

Ski areas that currently offer mountain biking in the summer months face a greater responsibility than they do during the winter when skiing and snowboarding is offered. To reduce the burden of risk placed on the ski areas, Senate Bill 463 will amend the current Winter Sports Statute to create the Alpine Sports Statute. The amended law will slightly modify the existing winter sports law to include mountain bike specific terms and definitions as well as some operational requirements.

Senate Bill 463 essentially establishes an assumption of risk statute. This will place a greater burden of risk on the participant rather than the facility. Although the burden of risk will be shifted from the ski area to the participant, several safety requirements will be set forth for ski operators as well as requirements designed to inform participants of the dangers associated with biking. The necessary safety requirements include placing warning signs and information signs regarding the level of difficulty of ski trails as well as the recommendation to use a helmet.

These minor technical updates will ensure that Alpine sports will continue to have a positive impact on the state's economy throughout both the winter and summer. Thank you again Senator Moulton and all committee members for allowing me the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 463.

Respectfully submitted,

John Soper



ADAM JARCHOW

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 28TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on AB 596/SB 463 – The Alpine Sports Act
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism
Wednesday, January 13, 2016 – 11:00 a.m.
Room 411 South

Throughout the State of Wisconsin, ski hills are looking for ways to increase revenue in the summer months, and in some cases, during mild springs and falls. One great way to be able to use a ski hill is for alpine mountain biking. In essence, this means riding a bike down the side of a ski hill. There are more and more brave people who are looking to engage in this activity and the ski hills would like to be able to offer this activity just like they offer skiing to their customers.

This bill would amend the current Winter Sports Statute to create an Alpine Sports Statute, which would mirror those Winter Sports Statutes. This would include terms and definitions in relation to alpine mountain biking and would create some operational requirements on ski hills who wish to offer this sport to their customers.

This means that we are providing the same kind of legal environment for biking just as we do for skiing.

I ask that you support this bill which would help ski hills safely offer alpine biking at their facilities without assuming any further risk. Shorter winters are hard on ski hills... this bill could mean keeping the doors open or possibly investing in their business.