

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Angler and hunter support for the River Democracy Act of 2021

Dear Senators Wyden and Merkley,

Fishing and hunting are two of Oregon's longest-standing traditions. Both require a deep love for, and respect of, the land, and both have deep roots in conservation. For decades, families and businesses have been drawn to Oregon for all the opportunities our rivers have to offer and have given back much in return economically and otherwise.

Our businesses and organizations directly contribute to our state's booming outdoor recreation economy. Guiding outfits, tackle and fly shops, and a whole host of hunting and angling-based businesses are a big part of the 172,200 jobs and nearly \$16 billion in annual consumer spending in Oregon.

Our industries and way of life in Oregon rely on access to the special public lands and waters that our state affords. Public lands from the Ochocos, to the Willows, and Cascades, and rivers like the Rogue, Sprague, North Umpqua, McKenzie, and Grande Ronde are just a few of the treasured places that will benefit from the River Democracy Act.

On public lands and waters like these, we teach our grandchildren to fish and hunt; we await ducks flying overhead at first light; we search every eddy, riffle, and pool for steelhead and trout; we navigate drift boats and rafts through rapids with guests from around the world. These places make our livelihoods possible, and our quality of life truly exceptional.

Oregon's beloved rivers, and the tributaries both large and small that feed them, are vital to Oregon's outdoor recreation economy, to our quality of life, and to our natural heritage. For this reason and many others, we are happy to support the River Democracy Act. The rivers and streams included in the River Democracy Act nurture fish and wildlife, support Oregon's economy and provide drinking water to communities across the state.

Please take action to ensure that this bill passes quickly and know that we stand behind your efforts.

Sincerely, the undersigned –

Anderson Custom Rods, Jackson County
Anderson's Outdoors LLC, Clackamas County

Andras Outfitters, Jackson County
Bluebacks Chapter - Trout Unlimited, Benton County
Camp Sherman Store & Fly Shop, Jefferson County
Central Oregon Lady Anglers, Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson Counties
Confluence Fly Shop, Deschutes County
Corey VanDlac
Daxfly Angling Services, Jackson County
Deschutes Redbands Chapter - Trout Unlimited, Deschutes County
Eugene Redsides Chapter- Trout Unlimited, Lane County
Fish The Swing, Tillamook County
Fish's Shuttle Service, Jefferson County
Fly Water Travel
Frigate Travel
Home Waters Fly Fishing, Lane County
Jack Trout Fly Fishing International
Leslie Ajari Messett, Jackson County
Native Fish Society
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited
Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association
Oregon Pack Works, Deschutes County
PDX Women On The Fly - Trout Unlimited, Multnomah County
R.B. Meiser Fly Rods LLC, Jackson and Curry Counties
Renton River Adventures, Deschutes County
Riparian Tours LLC, Lane County
Small Stream Outfitters, Washington County
South Coast Tours LLC, Curry County
Swing the Fly Press, LLC
The Caddis Fly Angling Shop, Lane County
The Conservation Angler, Multnomah County
The Fly Fisher's Place, Deschutes County
The Flylords
The McKenzie Flyfishers, Lane County
The Oregon Council of Fly Fishers International, Inc. (ORCFFI)
Trout Unlimited
Two Dudes Fly Fishing, Lane County
Wild Steelhead Coalition, Deschutes County
Wild Steelheaders United