



## Board of County Commissioners

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April 20, 2015

Brian Clem, Chair,  
House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water

### **SUBJECT: HB 3283 Bend Mirror Pond**


The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on April 20, 2015, to support the City of Bend and Bend Park and Recreation District's efforts to improve Mirror Pond and downtown Bend by supporting HB 3283. The Mirror Pond project is complicated and involves significant issues of environmental and business concerns. While we understand that additional community discussions will need to occur to gain overall consensus, we strongly support this move. HB 3283 is an important part of the funding strategy that will help carry this project forward. It is our understanding that the committee is considering moving this Bill to the Ways and Means Committee.

The Mirror Pond project has significant economic values by repurposing land located along the banks of the Deschutes River in downtown Bend. Once realized, the project will add to the vibrancy of downtown and will create and support a burgeoning tourism economy. The public spaces created by this proposal is also significant as it will assist the community in achieving a 20 year priority of continuing the Deschutes River Trail, add plaza spaces, improve riparian habitat and create fish passage where it does not currently exist.

The Board of Commissioners looks forward to this exciting opportunity and hopes that the Oregon Legislature will join us in their support.

THE DESCHUTES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Anthony DeBone, Chair

  
Alan Unger, Commissioner

  
Tammy Baney, Commissioner