



May 14, 2015

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

The Honorable Tobias Reed, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Val Hoyle  
The Honorable John Huffman

The Honorable Tina Kotek  
The Honorable Greg Smith  
The Honorable Peter Courtney  
The Honorable Richard Devlin

RE: Support of House Bill 3283 by the Oregon Recreation and Park Association

On behalf of nearly 1,000 members of the Oregon Recreation and Park Association (ORPA), including 62 park and recreation agencies as well as professionals, and volunteers, I am pleased to express support for House Bill 3283. This bill would authorize the issuance of lottery bonds to fund the removal of Mirror Pond Dam and to make companion environmental and recreational improvements to this important and treasured asset in Bend.

While most of our Association's advocacy efforts focus on bills with a broader, statewide impact on the park and recreation field, we are always pleased to support legislation that enhances and provides resources for local and regional park and recreation providers. We are especially pleased to support this bill for several reasons:

ORPA's legislative platform includes supporting "legislation that calls for and funds the formation of partnerships to provide such services [that promote active healthy lifestyles]." This bill forges an important partnership with the State of Oregon and the Bend Park and Recreation District and the Bend community to address the many challenges currently present with the Mirror Pond Dam.

Bend is a recreation icon for Oregon and beyond. Oregonians from across the state and outdoor enthusiasts outside of Oregon flock to Bend for recreational purposes. The funding provided by House Bill 3283 would support important environmental, recreational, and economic improvement projects that will ensure that Bend residents, Oregonians, and visitors to Central Oregon continue to enjoy Bend's recreation opportunities while the waterways and wetlands in this area are significantly enhanced.

This project has tremendous support from the Bend community, and these projects are an excellent example of collaboration between the environmental community and the business community. This bill represents not only an investment in Bend, but an excellent example for other communities of the improvements that can be made when environmental and business interests come together to solve problems collaboratively.

The State of Oregon's investment in the Mirror Pond Dam project represents an excellent opportunity for the state to support this iconic area and to invest in a model project that meets multiple objectives of environmental conservation, recreation enhancement, and tourism and economic development. For these reasons, I strongly encourage the Committee to support the passage of House Bill 3283.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me or Cindy Robert, ORPA's lobbyist, if we may offer any additional information to the Committee.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Redman, Executive Director