

March 28, 2017

The Honorable Ann Lininger
The Honorable Pam Marsh
The Honorable David Brock Smith
The Honorable Brian Clem
The Honorable David Gomberg

The Honorable Ken Helm
The Honorable Andy Olson
The Honorable Bill Post
The Honorable E. Werner Reschke

Re: Support of HB 3350

Dear House Committee on Economic Development and Trade,

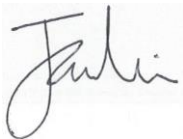
I am writing to submit testimony in support of HB 3350 for your committee hearing on April 3rd. I live in Bend, Oregon and I recreate outdoors on a daily basis. I am a passionate advocate for Oregon's public lands and I care about the future of Oregon's economy. Today I am writing to express support for HB 3350 to create an Office of Outdoor Recreation.

Outdoor recreation is big business in Oregon. According to a study commissioned by the Outdoor Industry Association in 2012, outdoor recreation in Oregon accounts for \$12.8 billion in consumer spending annually, 141,000 direct Oregon jobs, \$4 billion in Oregon wages and salaries annually. This equals \$995 million in state and local tax revenue annually. This industry dominates the economy here in Bend, and I'd like to see other rural communities benefit from Oregon's exceptional outdoor amenities.

Consumer spending on outdoor recreation nationally exceeds spending in other key sectors including pharmaceuticals, motor vehicles and parts, spending on gasoline and other fuels, and spending on household utilities. HB 3350 would enable the state of Oregon to focus economic development efforts on growing this large and vital economic sector while striking a sensitive balance between development and preservation of Oregon's unique natural resources.

Creating an Office of Outdoor Recreation will ensure the outdoor rec economy in Oregon will have every opportunity to grow and thrive. Growing the outdoor rec economy is good for Oregonians health and good for business. As a taxpayer in Oregon, I can't think of a better way to invest in Oregon's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Josephine", is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Josephine Norris
Bend, OR