

Dear Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

I am writing to urge you to vote “yes” on the HB 2027 amendment.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is actively exploring abolishment of environmental rules in the Upper Deschutes Scenic Waterway. OPRD’s rule abolishment would ultimately allow the Bend Park and Recreation District to construct a high-intensity bridge and trail system in this environmentally sensitive area. Disturbingly, OPRD has proceeded with this agenda against warnings from both the public and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists.

Legislative preservation of the Upper Deschutes is critical. The Upper Deschutes Scenic Waterway was consciously set aside by Oregon voters and must remain a protected area.

OPRD is going against the wishes of Oregon voters by promoting development along Wild and Scenic river areas. This policy undermines the conservationist purpose of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act. Further, abolishing environmental protections in Oregon scenic waterways would mark the beginning of an insidious trend. All Oregon scenic waterways are at risk.

Passage of the HB 2027 amendment is vital to ensure continued protection of the Upper Deschutes Scenic Waterway and to affirm Oregon’s commitment to rivers statewide.

Thank you for defending Oregon’s rivers. Please vote “Yes” on HB 2027 amendment.

Clifford Curry

60980 Bachelor View Road

Bend, OR 97702