

Senator Micheal Dembrow  
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
900 Court St. NE, S-407  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Dembrow:

My name is Cynthia Eckhoff. I live in Bend, Oregon and am writing to you to ask for your support and leadership of HB 2027.

My husband and I moved to Bend in 2007. He moved from Missouri, where he grew up and I moved from California where I grew up. Before moving to Bend, we were fortunate enough to take a short time off of work and travel the western U.S. looking for a place to raise our kids where they could experience the wonders of the mountains, rivers, lakes and all that the outdoors has to teach us. We feel very fortunate to have landed in Bend.

We now are the proud parents of two young daughters, ages five and seven. Both girls tremendously enjoy the outdoors and we are fortunate to live close to the Upper Deschutes Scenic Waterway. We spend a significant amount of our time near the river enjoying its scenery and wildlife.

We have an Osprey nest in our neighborhood that sits in an old snag near the rim of the canyon, just above the lowermost segment of the Upper Deschutes State Scenic Waterway. Just last month, the Osprey's returned from their southern winter home and my youngest daughter was the first to spot them and proudly announce "The Osprey's are home!"

One of our neighbors has created a small journal on a sign board close to the nest where kids from around the neighborhood write observations about the Osprey's and tape pictures. My girls are fascinated with this and check the journal almost daily. On our frequent walks through the neighborhood we often will see one of the Osprey with a recently caught redband trout in its talons and we all marvel in this beauty. My husband often says that in his next life he is going to be an Osprey and fish the Deschutes all summer and a flat in the Caribbean all winter.

I share the story of the Osprey nest and our family to try to give you a small sense of how important this Scenic Waterway is to us, to the Bend community, and to the state of Oregon. Much like a pocket park in a dense neighborhood, or a small sliver of a green belt through an urban area, the section of protected Scenic Waterway on the Upper Deschutes is a huge part of what makes the areas that surround this wild and scenic refuge so special.

Please support HB 2027 and protect this critical fish and wildlife habitat for our children and for our future generations.

Sincerely,



Cynthia H. Eckhoff