

January 31, 2019

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources  
Co-Chairs Senator Kathleen Taylor and Representative Jeff Reardon  
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Support for HB 5527 and Oregon Parks & Recreation Department Budget**

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Subcommittee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Mazamas and our over 9,000 members and supporters to voice our support of HB 5527 and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Budget for 2019-2021.

Founded in 1894 on the summit of Mt. Hood, the Mazamas is a nonprofit mountaineering education organization focused on promoting climbing, responsible recreation, and conservation values through outdoor education, advocacy, and outreach. The work of OPRD directly contributes to instilling an appreciation for the natural world and responsible outdoor recreation. Therefore, we support strong funding for the Department.

As the outdoor recreation economy is increasingly vital to Oregon's diverse communities, we are glad to see continued funding for the Office of Outdoor Recreation, created by the Legislature in 2017. While the Office has been in existence for a short time, it has already provided substantial contributions to the outdoor recreation movement in the State, engaging with a wide range of stakeholders and initiating discussions on shared interests. We are confident that the Office will effectively bring together multiple agencies and non-governmental partners to expand and improve outdoor recreation in the State for the benefit of current and future generations.

We also wish to voice our support for policy package 105 which would enhance recreation outreach and inclusion efforts to reach Oregonians currently not accessing the State Park System. The Mazamas share OPRD's conviction that "no one should feel unwelcome in an Oregon Park." All Oregonians should have the opportunity to experience time in the natural world and we applaud OPRD for their efforts to be inclusive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5527. We urge your support for the OPRD budget and encourage efforts to further strengthen outdoor recreation and conservation in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bradham  
Interim Executive Director



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mountaineering  
education  
organization.  
Since 1894.

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527 SE 43rd Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97215  
T: 503-227-2345  
F: 503-227-0862  
E: [adventure@mazamas.org](mailto:adventure@mazamas.org)  
[mazamas.org](http://mazamas.org)