

From: brad@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Brad Creel](#)
To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: Support For HB 2835
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 1:39:35 PM

Dear Chair Brad Witt,

As a whitewater paddler who personally enjoys visiting Oregon's rivers, I ask for your support to protect access to our state's incredible and unique waterways through the passage of House Bill 2835, as it is amended. This legislation (as it is to be amended) will preserve and enhance public access to waterways by:

* Creating a required public process where state land and waterway agencies would be required to engage in a public review process for any public waterway access closures greater than 30 days in length. The legislation allows for exceptions for emergencies such as wildfire and for critical wildlife and ecological management activities, as well as for short-term construction and/or site improvement related closures.

* Requiring that state agencies work in cooperation to produce a report each year that is available to the public, reporting the number of waterway access sites that have been closed to access by state agencies in the previous calendar year and the reasons for each closure; as well as providing the number of public access sites for recreational use of public waterways that have been opened by state agencies in the previous calendar year.

* Finally, the legislation seeks to enhance public access to public waterways by incorporating a feasibility assessment for waterway access integration into new state bridge construction or reconstruction projects. This would not require the retroactive review of existing state bridges, nor require a state agency to fund the construction of access to a waterway, and would encourage interagency coordination on access projects where access improvements are suitable.

Preservation of access to public waterways and public lands is a critical backbone of the growing outdoor recreation economy, and a love for rivers is a value that is deeply embedded in the history and identity of our state. Rivers offer unique opportunities for residents and visitors alike to boat, hike, fish, enjoy wildlife, and treasure our states incredible natural resources.

For the reasons stated above, I ask that you please support HB 2835 as proposed for amendment.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Brad Creel
826 SE 55th Ave Portland, OR 97215-1822