

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Community organization support for the River Democracy Act of 2021

Dear Senators Wyden and Merkley,

We the undersigned organizations applaud the introduction of the River Democracy Act of 2021 and thank you for your leadership to protect the Oregon rivers and waterways that provide our great state with clean drinking water, amazing recreation opportunities, and critical habitat for fish and wildlife.

Although our groups represent a wide variety of interests, purposes, and people across the state, we all have at least one thing in common—a love of Oregon’s rivers. From paddling clubs to birding groups, and youth-led climate organizations to watershed councils, we all recognize that rivers bring Oregonians together. They provide us with clean drinking water, our favorite swimming holes, and places to take our families fishing and boating.

For years—and for some of us, decades—we’ve picked up litter and planned full-blown river cleanups. But there’s no better way to show our love for Oregon’s rivers than by supporting their lifelong protection. Even at times when it feels like there’s not much to agree on, a desire to provide the next generation with places to hike, paddle, and explore is a universal truth.

Oregon is a place we love to live. Adding nearly 4,700 miles of Oregon rivers and streams throughout the state to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system will protect our waterways and fuel our local economies.

We appreciate the statewide community collaboration and input that went into crafting this bill to ensure that it represents the needs of all Oregonians. Recent years have shed a resoundingly clear light on something Oregonians have long known: just how important outdoor spaces are for our health and happiness. Thank you for introducing the River Democracy Act of 2021, and know that we the undersigned organizations are thankful for your tireless work on this issue, and stand ready to work alongside you to ensure swift passage of a clean bill.

Sincerely, the undersigned,

1000 Friends of Oregon  
350 Eugene  
American Rivers  
American Whitewater  
Applegate Siskiyou Alliance  
Audubon Society of Corvallis  
Audubon Society of Lincoln City  
Audubon Society of Portland  
Blue Mountain Audubon Society  
Cascadia Wildlands  
Central Oregon Bitterbrush Broadband - Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Central Oregon LandWatch  
Deschutes Redbands Chapter - Trout Unlimited  
East Cascades Audubon Society  
Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Extinction Rebellion Portland, OR (XRPDX)  
Forest Web  
Friends of Douglas-fir National Monument  
Friends of the Kalmiopsis  
Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Metolius  
Friends of the Owyhee  
Greater Hells Canyon Council  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Cascade Volcano Chapter  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness Rogue Valley  
Juniper Group Sierra Club  
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society  
Kalmiopsis Guides Association  
Klamath Basin Audubon Society  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
KXCJ-LP  
Lane County Audubon Society  
Lower Columbia Canoe Club  
Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council  
Molalla River Watch Watershed Council  
Mt. Hood Stewardship Council  
National Wildlife Federation  
Native Fish Society  
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment  
Northeast Oregon Ecosystems  
Oregon Council Trout Unlimited  
Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club

Oregon League of Conservation Voters  
Oregon Natural Desert Association  
Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association  
Oregon Wild  
Pacific Rivers  
Pandion Institute  
Peoples' Voice on Climate  
Rhododendron Water Association  
Rogue Basin Partnership  
Rogue Riverkeeper  
Salem Audubon Society  
Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon  
Siskiyou Crest Coalition  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council  
South Coast Cutthroats Trout Unlimited  
South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership  
Steamboaters  
SunrisePDX  
The Conservation Angler  
The North Umpqua Foundation  
Trout Unlimited  
Tualatin Riverkeepers  
Umpqua Watersheds  
United Women on the Fly  
Water Climate Trust  
Wild Steelheaders United  
Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club  
Willamette Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Williams Community Forest Project  
Women For Wild Fish