

**From:** [Randy Dersham](#)  
**To:** [JWMCC Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** HB 5202 and the McKenzie River Discovery Center (MRDC)  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2020 10:00:39 AM

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I am the executive director of the McKenzie River Discovery Center. I support the proposed funding request because if successful, it would mean the assurance of our key donor support and secure our 2023 launch date. The 5 million dollar request is 27% of our budget total of 18.5 million dollars with the balance coming from major individual donors, foundation grants, and ongoing memberships. The uniqueness of the McKenzie River water, the historic boats invented there, and the fish and total ecosystem mandate a dynamic education center such as the one the MRDC will provide.

In 2019, we have had very strong traction while pulling together the community and preplanning the site and facility as we work towards our vision of building a year round environmental education facility on the McKenzie River. We are poised to take the next step.

Our long term goal is to open this new educational museum in 2023. For 2020 our goal is the recruitment of our major donors and the beginning of on-site educational programs in the existing facilities. Our current support from Lane County and our State Legislators has been very strong. Your funding for the MRDC will be the anchor to launch our successful fundraising activities and complete our site and building plans as we prepare to break ground in 2021 with a majority of our 18.5 million dollar budget raised.

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**Randy Dersham**  
Executive Director  
McKenzie River Discovery Center