

TO: Joint Ways and Means Committee, April 22 Public Hearing

RE: McKenzie river Discovery Center (MRDC) and American Recovery Funds request

FR: Roger Fletcher, Board member, MRDC

Dear Co-Chairs and Members –

Senator Floyd Prozanski and Representative Nancy Nathanson have each put forward a request of \$6.5M and \$5M respectively in Recovery funds for the McKenzie River Discovery Center. We greatly appreciate their confidence in our work and I believe that confidence is shared by the Lane county delegation. I encourage you to seriously consider their request on our behalf.

Last night I addressed the JWM committee. My focus was on the importance of the water and the value of the MRDC as a gateway to McKenzie Valley recovery. But the MRDC is so much more, something you would have learned had our other two signees (Executive Director Wisteria Stuart and Board president Tom Hoyt) been called. I sincerely hope they will have the opportunity to address you in the near future, or the JWM subcommittee the MRDC request may be assigned.

The Discovery Center's stated Mission is to honor and promote this watershed, its unique hydrology, iconic boating culture and native fish and to inspire stewardship by educating and entertaining youth and adults through interactive interpretive exhibits and hands on experiences.

The pandemic and the horrific Holiday Farm Fire has caused us to adjust our sights. At moment we are in is a "crisis of opportunity." The "opportunity" is to reimagine this incredible valley in ways that not only restores lives and economies as they were before these two crises, but as importantly elevates this river and its watershed to the full realization of its uniqueness and value to Oregonians. MRDC will be a leading partner in that effort.

We thank Senator Prozanski and Representative Nathanson for their support and help for putting us in the mix for Recovery funds. If granted I assure you that both the short and long term returns on that investment will be significant.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger Fletcher".