

February 11, 2022

Subject: McKenzie River Discovery Center

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Capital Construction

I am urging you to honor our request for \$5.5M to reach our 40% goal. Your match, coupled with our \$2M already in hand, puts us there. We are confident that this magic match will open gates that are ajar but won't open fully until the magic mark is reached.

The MRDC will take visitors on a journey through time and space to help people understand and appreciate how the unique combinations of geology, volcanology, fire, landscape, water, fish, flora, fauna and cultures have shaped the McKenzie River Valley and corridor. It is truly a unique place unlike anywhere else on the continent. Perhaps the world. It is an Oregon Gem.

The McKenzie Valley has been and remains in a state of crisis due to the horrific Holiday Farm Fire as well as COVID 19. MRDC identifies this as a "crisis of opportunity." We have an *opportunity to reimagine this incredible Valley in ways that not only restores lives and economies but elevates this river and watershed to the full realization of its uniqueness and value to all Oregonians.*

The MRDC is centrally positioned to make that happen through its immersive and interactive educational experiences that will inform visitors about the key features of the region, and hopefully, serve as a doorway, or portal for people to experience the river and its environs first-hand.

Thank you for your consideration, and please know that you are making a significant investment in the longer-term health and vitality of the region.

Gratefully,



Roger Fletcher
MRDC Board Member
2353 E Ellendale Ave
Dallas, OR 97338