

February 15, 2024

Joint Ways and Means Committee Co-Chair Elizabeth Steiner
Joint Ways and Means Committee Co-Chair Tawna Sanchez
Legislative Fiscal Office
Oregon State Legislature

I'm writing to thank the Oregon Legislature for their investment in the McKinzie River Discovery Center. The 2022 session authorized \$3 million dollars to build a pavilion to house several exhibits for education, and promote the economic recovery of the fire impacted McKenzie River Valley. Our board of directors have worked diligently with local contractors, architects, and suppliers to move the project forward, but the significant increase in costs in building and inflation have led to almost double our original estimates.

In order to fulfill our plan to complete the Discovery Center, our board has decided to pivot our original plan, and utilize the existing buildings on site. This will require remodeling 3 existing buildings, and replacing a lost structure that was burnt during the fire. We have received overwhelming support for this proposed change.

I'm asking for your support to the scope change request in HB5201. This change will allow us to use the approved funds for remodel of existing buildings, and construction of a building lost to the fire.

Thank you for your consideration of this change in language.

Eugene Jones
President, McKenzie Rive Discovery Center