

Submitter: Mandy Jones
On Behalf Of: McKenzie River Discovery Center
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or SB5701
Topic:

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mandy Jones, and I write to express my strong support for the McKenzie River Discovery Center.

As a resident of the Mckenzie River for over 20 years, a board member of the MRDC and an avid fisherperson, I know how important this river is to the county and to all of Oregon. The McKenzie River produces some of the coldest, cleanest water in the world. That water supports all kinds of fish habitat, and provides the drinking water to all of Lane County

I was fortunate to survive the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire, but our community has faced not only devastating ecological loss, but real economic hardship. Homes and businesses were destroyed. Tourism declined. Families relocated. Recovery has been slow and uneven.

The McKenzie River Discovery Center represents a smart, forward-looking investment in economic and rural resilience.

Partnering with OMSI, we are developing interactive, science-based exhibits that make complex subjects—like volcanic aquifers, river hydrology, salmon recovery, and Indigenous lifeways—accessible through experiential learning tailored to students' needs. We believe that the MRDC will draw visitors from all of Oregon and beyond, bringing much needed tourism to the entire valley.

I respectfully urge your support for this important investment in Oregon's future! Thank you for your consideration and for all you do for the beautiful state we live in,
Mandy Jones
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