

Submitter: A. Scott Reed
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or SB5701
Topic:

Dear Members of the Committee:

As former Dean and Director of Oregon State University Extension Service and Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement, I have spent my career advancing the outreach mission of Land-Grant Universities (OSU is one) — ensuring that knowledge serves the people of Oregon.

We have learned that the best knowledge is that which is co-created with communities of common interest. The McKenzie River Discovery Center is an exemplary model of that mission in action.

MRDC will be a permanent, place-based platform for extended science and culture-based education — translated into lived experience. It will connect Oregonians to science-based learning about watershed health, wildfire resilience, fisheries recovery, forest management, and rural economic vitality. I am pleased that OSU Extension plans to be a partner in these efforts, especially as it relates to youth in the area through one of our cornerstone programs--4-H Youth Development.

MRDC is not simply a visitor center; it is a living laboratory and statewide educational resource that will serve youth, families, landowners, guides, and decision-makers. The McKenzie River is one of Oregon's most extraordinary natural assets. MRDC ensures that its story — and the science that sustains it — is accessible to every Oregonian. To me, this is Extension education made visible, experiential, and intergenerational.

Investing in MRDC is investing in Oregon's economic and cultural future — where research, community, and stewardship come together to meet the challenges ahead. I strongly urge your support.

Sincerely,
Dr. A. Scott Reed
Former Dean and Director, OSU Extension Service
Former Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement
Bend, OR