

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Angler and hunter support for the River Democracy Act of 2021

Dear Senators Wyden and Merkley,

Fishing and hunting are two of Oregon's longest-standing traditions. Both require a deep love for, and respect of, the land, and both have deep roots in conservation. For decades, families and businesses have been drawn to Oregon for all the opportunities our rivers have to offer, and have given back much in return economically and otherwise.

Our businesses and organizations directly contribute to our state's booming outdoor recreation economy. Guiding outfits, tackle and fly shops, and a whole host of hunting and angling-based businesses are a big part of the 172,200 jobs and nearly \$16 billion in annual consumer spending in Oregon.

Our industries and way of life in Oregon rely on access to the special public lands and waters that our state affords. Public lands from the Ochocos, to the Willows, and Cascades, and rivers like the Rogue, Sprague, North Umpqua, McKenzie, and Grande Ronde are just a few of the treasured places that will benefit from the River Democracy Act.

On public lands and waters like these, we teach our grandchildren to fish and hunt; we await ducks flying overhead at first light; we search every eddy, riffle, and pool for steelhead and trout; we navigate drift boats and rafts through rapids with guests from around the world. These places make our livelihoods possible, and our quality of life truly exceptional.

Oregon's beloved rivers, and the tributaries both large and small that feed them, are vital to Oregon's outdoor recreation economy, to our quality of life, and to our natural heritage. For this reason and many others, we are happy to support the River Democracy Act. The rivers and streams included in the River Democracy Act nurture fish and wildlife, support Oregon's economy and provide drinking water to communities across the state.

Please take action to ensure that this bill passes quickly, and know that we stand behind your efforts.

Sincerely, the undersigned –

Anderson Custom Rods  
Anderson's Outdoors LLC  
Andras Outfitters  
Bluebacks Chapter - Trout Unlimited  
Camp Sherman Store & Fly Shop  
Central Oregon Lady Anglers  
Confluence Fly Shop  
Corey VanDiac  
Daxfly Angling Services  
Deschutes Redbands Chapter - Trout Unlimited  
Eugene Redsides Chapter- Trout Unlimited  
Fish The Swing  
Fish's Shuttle Service  
Fly Fisher's Place  
Fly Water Travel  
Frigate Travel  
Home Waters Fly Fishing  
Jack Trout Fly Fishing International  
Leslie Ajari Messett  
Native Fish Society  
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association  
Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited  
Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association  
Oregon Pack Works  
PDX Women On The Fly - Trout Unlimited  
R.B. Meiser Fly Rods LLC  
Renton River Adventures  
Riparian Tours LLC  
Small Stream Outfitters  
South Coast Tours LLC  
Swing the Fly Press, LLC  
The Caddis Fly Angling Shop  
The Conservation Angler  
The Fly Fisher's Place  
The Flylords  
The McKenzie Flyfishers  
The Oregon Council of Fly Fishers International, Inc. (ORCFFI)  
Trout Unlimited  
Two Dudes Fly Fishing  
Wild Steelhead Coalition  
Wild Steelheaders United