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 Wallowas, 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 VanDlac
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