



The Conservation Alliance

Outdoor Business Giving Back to the Outdoors

The Honorable Ron Wyden

United States Senator
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley

United States Senator
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Wyden & Merkley,

As businesses based in Oregon we are writing to express our strong support for the Oregon Wildlands Act (S. 1548), and to thank you for your leadership in introducing and moving this legislation through the 115th Congress.

The Oregon Wildlands Act would protect land and water unique to Oregon, and treasured by all Oregonians as sources of clean drinking water, unmatched outdoor recreation, and important wildlife habitat. This bill would designate approximately 90,000 acres of Wilderness in the Wild Rogue and Devil's Staircase areas, and safeguard 256 miles as Wild and Scenic Rivers. The bill would secure additional Recreation Area protections for more than 128,000 acres along the Rogue and Molalla rivers, and withdraw the Chetco River from mineral entry.

In addition to their ecological values, the rivers and lands the bill seeks to protect are a source of economic opportunity. Protecting more of Oregon's wild rivers and lands creates economic certainty for hundreds of businesses that depend on these places for their unmatched recreation opportunities. River-based recreation on the Rogue River alone accounts for \$30 million in total economic output. Our employees and customers cherish public lands, like the Wild Rogue, to seek inspiration and participate in outdoor recreation. They add to the quality of life for the communities where we choose to base our businesses.

Outdoor recreation in Oregon supports 172,000 jobs and generates \$164 billion in consumer spending. According to a recent study released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, outdoor recreation is two percent of the national Gross Domestic Product and is growing faster than the economy as a whole. To support our booming and sustainable economy, access to Oregon's stunning protected lands and waters is paramount.

Thank you for your leadership on the Oregon Wildlands Act. As Oregon businesses, we stand ready to help you guide this initiative across the finish line. It is time to protect these special lands and waters places for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

Sincerely,

Please see reverse for signatures



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