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: Community organization support for the River Democracy Act of 2021  

Dear Senators Wyden and Merkley,  

We the undersigned organizations applaud the introduction of the River Democracy Act of 2021 and thank you for your leadership to protect the Oregon rivers and waterways that provide our great state with clean drinking water, amazing recreation opportunities, and critical habitat for fish and wildlife.  

Although our groups represent a wide variety of interests, purposes, and people across the state, we all have at least one thing in common—a love of Oregon’s rivers. From paddling clubs to birding groups, and youth-led climate organizations to watershed councils, we all recognize that rivers bring Oregonians together. They provide us with clean drinking water, our favorite swimming holes, and places to take our families fishing and boating.  

For years—and for some of us, decades—we’ve picked up litter and planned full-blown river cleanups. But there’s no better way to show our love for Oregon’s rivers than by supporting their lifelong protection. Even at times when it feels like there’s not much to agree on, a desire to provide the next generation with places to hike, paddle, and explore is a universal truth.  

Oregon is a place we love to live. Adding nearly 4,700 miles of Oregon rivers and streams throughout the state to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system will protect our waterways and fuel our local economies.  

We appreciate the statewide community collaboration and input that went into crafting this bill to ensure that it represents the needs of all Oregonians. Recent years have shed a resoundingly clear light on something Oregonians have long known: just how important outdoor spaces are for our health and happiness. Thank you for introducing the River Democracy Act of 2021, and know that we the undersigned organizations are thankful for your tireless work on this issue, and stand ready to work alongside you to ensure swift passage of a clean bill.  

Sincerely, the undersigned,
1000 Friends of Oregon
350 Eugene
American Rivers
American Whitewater
Applegate Siskiyou Alliance
Audubon Society of Corvallis
Audubon Society of Lincoln City
Audubon Society of Portland
Blue Mountain Audubon Society
Cascadia Wildlands
Central Oregon Bitterbrush Broadband - Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Central Oregon LandWatch
Deschutes Redbands Chapter - Trout Unlimited
East Cascades Audubon Society
Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands
Endangered Species Coalition
Extinction Rebellion Portland, OR (XRPDX)
Forest Web
Friends of Douglas-fir National Monument
Friends of the Kalmiopsis
Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Metolius
Friends of the Owyhee
Greater Hells Canyon Council
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Cascade Volcano Chapter
Great Old Broads for Wilderness Rogue Valley
Juniper Group Sierra Club
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
Kalmiopsis Guides Association
Klamath Basin Audubon Society
Klamath Forest Alliance
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
KXCJ-LP
Lane County Audubon Society
Lower Columbia Canoe Club
Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
Molalla River Watch Watershed Council
Mt. Hood Stewardship Council
National Wildlife Federation
Native Fish Society
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment
Northeast Oregon Ecosystems
Oregon Council Trout Unlimited
Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association
Oregon Wild
Pacific Rivers
Pandion Institute
Peoples' Voice on Climate
Rhododendron Water Association
Rogue Basin Partnership
Rogue Riverkeeper
Salem Audubon Society
Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon
Siskiyou Crest Coalition
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
South Coast Cutthroats Trout Unlimited
South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
Steamboaters
SunrisePDX
The Conservation Angler
The North Umpqua Foundation
Trout Unlimited
Tualatin Riverkeepers
Umpqua Watersheds
United Women on the Fly
Water Climate Trust
Wild Steelheaders United
Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club
Willamette Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Williams Community Forest Project
Women For Wild Fish