



May 5, 2025

Congressman Cliff Bentz
14 N. Central Avenue, Suite 112
Medford, OR 97501

Dear Congressman Bentz:

As the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners, we are writing to emphasize the significant economic, infrastructural and social benefits of acquiring 40-acres of Deschutes National Forest from the federal government. The location identified southeast of La Pine is known to have a State of Oregon certifiable hard rock supply. Acquiring and designating this property for surfacing mining will bring many benefits to Deschutes County and the region. Some of the direct benefits include:

- Utilizing this land for its aggregate resources will help support the construction industry in southern Deschutes County and throughout the region.
- Increasing the availability of this aggregate resource will help to facilitate quicker and more efficient developments, through reduced delays and ensuring consistent supply for ongoing road and facility maintenance, and for other critical projects.
- Reducing haul times in southern Deschutes County helps to decrease construction costs, which directly impacts the affordability of new homes and other development projects in the region.
- Shorter haul times to nearby projects reduce environmental impacts due to lessened emissions and overall carbon footprint.
- Strategic use of this land can also stabilize market prices and encourage competitive development.
- Target property is directly adjacent to an operational surface mine currently used for rock, sand and gravel operations making accessibility to the 40-acres more tangible.

In conclusion, these 40-acres represents a strategic investment in the future of Deschutes County and would provide positive impacts to the region. Economic, infrastructural, and social benefits factors make this land an important asset contributing to the continued prosperity and sustainability of our region.

Thank you for weighing these factors carefully as we move forward with this initiative, and we thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony DeBone
Chair

Patti Adair
Vice Chair

Phil Chang
Commissioner