



To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to advise that immediate and careful consideration and analysis of scientific data collected by the Deschutes River Alliance (DRA) is required. Prompt action should be taken to help save our valuable resource, the Lower Deschutes River.

The Maupin Area Chamber of Commerce is seriously concerned about this issue and the impact it is creating for our businesses, visitors, and the community.

Our rural community and its businesses are heavily reliant on the River for our economic stability. The dollars spent by fisherman, tourists and outdoorsman keep us viable. Pure and simple, they come to Maupin because of the River.

In the past few years, many businesses have noted a decline in business. In an effort to understand why, we look again to the River. Many have noted a change in the River; warmer water temperatures, fewer fish, and a significant increase in algae. It appears that these changes may be a direct result of the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project. Not an intentional outcome granted, but a negative outcome all the same.

As our community continues to work towards economic development prospects that may reduce our reliance on the River, the need to protect the River is still of utmost importance. The time to take action is now! Please consider the data provided by DRA and work to mitigate what is proving to be a negative impact on our most valuable economic resource, the Lower Deschutes River.

Please contact me if you would like further information or conversation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Bechtol".

Allison Bechtol, President  
Maupin Area Chamber of Commence