



September 21, 2022

The Honorable Cliff Bentz
1239 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bentz:

We are writing to express our support for conserving Sutton Mountain and adjacent public lands in the John Day River Basin. Not only does this area harbor abundant fish and wildlife, geological, paleontological, cultural and historic resources, but also attracts tens of thousands of visitors annually, generating important revenues for the city of Mitchell and Wheeler County.

These public lands surround the Painted Hills Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, known as one of the "Seven Wonders of Oregon." Protecting Sutton Mountain, with accommodation for existing land uses, would be a unique opportunity to connect the Painted Hills and the John Day River Wild and Scenic River, building upon existing designations and significant private investment in conservation and restoration in the region.

Sutton Mountain's location, beauty, endless opportunities for hunting, hiking, camping, and resplendent photography, and its importance to local communities deserve legislative protection. We stand ready to support you in that effort.