

**From:** Brook Gardner  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill 2027  
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I am a resident of Southwest Bend and moved into the RiverRim community in 2002. When we originally purchased a home in this community, a bridge connecting our neighborhood to the trails on the west side of the river were part of the Bend Park and Rec District's long-range plan. Truthfully, this future bridge was one of the deciding factors when we chose to live in SW Bend.

For nearly 15 years I have been driving from this side of the river, roughly 7 miles to the trail system on the other side of the river. This bridge was a bright spot on the horizon – and a chance to take advantage of recreation opportunities right from my front door, reducing car trips at the same time.

To see that a local official underhandedly pushed a bill through the House of Representatives to put an end to this bridge crossing seems unjust. We voted for a bond put forth by the Bend PRD several years ago to supposedly fund this project. There has much discussion about how this bridge would exactly come to fruition, but it did seem like the community was coming together to address concerns and try and figure out a way to move forward with this project.

This “bridge killer” bill seems unfair on many accounts – and to see officials who do not live in Bend, did not vote on a bond measure, and have likely never stepped foot anywhere near this proposed bridge site be empowered to stop the discussion from continuing in any way seems wrong on so many levels. It also feels that the political system that we have fought so hard to create and protect is doing an injustice to the community of Bend.

Please do not let the influence of a few well-heeled individuals prohibit this process from moving forward. We want to see this bridge given a fair chance and the citizens of this community should be heard and fairly represented. If there is anything my fellow community members and I can do to ensure that progress is made to see this discussion continue in earnest, please let me know.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

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