

**From:** Aikin, Judith P  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill 2027  
**Date:** Sunday, May 07, 2017 10:40:45 AM

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TO: Oregon State Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

RE: House Bill 2027, banning a pedestrian bridge across the Deschutes River

FROM: Judith Aikin, 2048 NW Glassow Drive, Bend, OR 97703

I am writing to oppose this bill, which benefits 12 wealthy landowners at the expense of the many residents and visitors of the city of Bend who would use the bridge and the trails it would connect together. Even the source of the bill, Rep. Whisnet, appears to have been boondoggled by the deceptive name of the "environmental" group that spoke in support--in reality the landowners along the river who want to keep this stretch for themselves.

Personally, as a trail-user who has walked many miles along the river and used other pedestrian bridges, I doubt that the proposed bridge would harm the environment in any substantive way; instead, it would provide access for the public to a part of the scenic waterway of the Deschutes River otherwise unavailable. If there are impacts that would preclude building the bridge, there are already several governmental entities, state and federal, charged with making the decision. The state legislature has no business micro-managing such a decision.

Please stop this ridiculous bill in its tracks.