

From: Kristen Jaax
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony against HB2027
Date: Sunday, May 07, 2017 11:07:40 AM

Dear Senate Committee members,

I was dismayed to learn that HB2027 is going through the *state* legislature to protect the special interests of a local group of homeowners in Bend, Oregon. I live in a home close to the river in the section of the Deschutes River near the region in question. The difference being that in our section of the river we *do* have access to nature trails along the river. Trail access is the lifeblood of our community. I have had many conversations over the years with my close-knit group of neighbors about the tremendous impact river access has on our quality of life. Access to wilderness trails close to our homes directly enriches our community, building friendships and improving the physical and mental health of the citizens living in the community.

A pedestrian bridge in the region at issue in HB2027 would provide those same benefits to thousands of residents of Southeast Bend at the small cost of asking the wealthy homeowners who support HB2027 (the deceptively named “Upper Deschutes Conservation Council”) to share their public trail system.

The argument about environmental protection seems weak at best. These are areas that already have trail systems – we are just talking about increasing the density of use of existing trail systems. Not expanding the trail system out into new wilderness areas.

It seems like the only true argument for prohibiting bridges in this region of the Deschutes river is to protect special interest groups living along the west side of that section of the river, Tim Phillips in particular.

Please vote down HB2027 and reject Rep Whisnant and Tim Philips call to pander to wealthy special interests. Do we seriously want that to be business-as-usual in Oregon?

Sincerely,

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