

From: Owen Wheary
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: House Bill 2027
Date: Sunday, May 07, 2017 8:27:37 PM

Dear Senate Committee,

As a longtime citizen of Bend, I am very concerned with what I am seeing in House Bill 2027. For starters, the Bill has been heavily altered since its conception, to the point where when viewing the bill, not a single piece of the original legislature remains. The original point of the bill was, and I quote, “[Authorizes issuance of lottery bonds to finance water storage projects and water distribution projects.] [Establishes Water Storage Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to Water Resources Department.] [Establishes Dry Day Subaccount. Continuously appropriates moneys in subaccount to Water Resources Department.] [Declares emergency, effective on passage.]” However, the altered bill contains none of this. The bill has been gutted, and its original content has been replaced with something very different. In essence, it states that you are not allowed to build a bridge along a section of the Deschutes. A section that just so happens to be bordered by a wealthy community. Gee, I wonder if that’s a coincidence. But my worries extend deeper. The sponsor and alterer of the bill, Rep. Gene Whisnat, has repeatedly sited the Upper Deschutes Conservation Council as a way of defending and pushing forward his bill. But who is the UDCC? The name would like to suggest that it is a nonprofit conservation group. In reality, the UDCC is just a front for the people trying to get their bill through. You have to wonder, if someone goes to the lengths of disguising themselves as a conservation organization, are their motives really trustworthy. I think not. The bill was pushed quickly through the House, most likely in an attempt to prevent a detailed look into the bill before it passed. Now, Whisnat and the UDCC are trying to push the bill through the senate. Don’t be fooled by their attempts. House Bill 2027 is a piece of legislative trickery designed to benefit a small, wealthy minority. Please consider the voice of the majority, who may not have as much money as some, but still deserve to be heard.

Thank you for your time,
Owen Wheary
19458 Amber Meadow Dr
Bend, OR