

**From:** martdaws@gmail.com  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 2027  
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Martin Dawson  
Resident, River Rim, Bend

I would like to comment on Bill 2027. This bill has the appearance of intending to block the good for many, many people to serve the self interest of few. The Deschutes River Trail is one of the prime amenities of outdoor recreation in Bend and surrounding area. It helps make this area attractive to tourists, visitors and residents alike. An enhanced trail system will build on that successful model. In my experience in using trails, a larger and more diverse trail system spreads out the users and could enhance the experience.

As far as the river being “wild and scenic” or any other designation, one must look at the greater picture. The City of Bend and surrounding population continues to grow, houses are built, people find their way to and down the river. A trail can help people see the river and adopt a caring and protective mindset. The argument that the river qualifies as “true wilderness and the wildlife would be harmed by a bridge” is weak. The history of the river in this area is anything but “untouched”. Canals and their inlets have been carved in the river bank and existed for years and will be their for years to come. Water in the desert is owned, sold, traded and used in intensively managed fashion. The river is dotted with manmade reservoirs up and down its length. Houses are built on the rim, trees have and will be cut down. I love a “natural” river as much as anyone else but I also understand the dynamics of the “real world” and the necessity to compromise and accommodate many people and ideals.

A foot bridge with extended trail at the south edge of Bend over the Deschutes River will be a positive amenity for the majority of the greater Bend area. It will increase property values in many areas, including of those who currently oppose the bridge.

I am opposed to any legislation that tries to block this trail expansion and the necessary bridge to allow it.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Martin Dawson

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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