

From: Scott Taylor
To: [SENR Exhibits](#); Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us; Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us; Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us; [Sen Prozanski](#); [Sen Roblan](#)
Cc: [Lynne Taylor](#)
Subject: testimony in opposition to HB 2027
Date: Saturday, May 06, 2017 8:59:41 AM

Dear Chairman Dembrow and members of the committee.

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2027 and wish to make my remarks a part of the record relating to this bill.

It is my understanding Rep. Whisnant included the current language of this bill as part of a “gut and stuff” of HB 2027 which originally was intended to allow the use of lottery funds to finance water storage.

As you know, the bill now seeks to kill the Bend Park & Recreation District’s plan to build a footbridge across the Deschutes river on the south end of Bend to link up with trails in the Deschutes National Forest.

The footbridge would create easier access for people on the east side of the river to access the numerous national forest trails on the west side without having to drive through town and out the west side to the trailheads, thus reducing driving and additional congestion on already busy streets and roads.

A group of a few homeowners in the area where the bridge might be built, calling themselves the Upper Deschutes Conservation Council is who put Rep. Whisnant up to introducing this bill. The bill was a surprise to the Bend Park & Recreation District as Rep. Whisnant didn’t bother to inform it as to what he was doing, and due to the fact that the current bill language is a “gut & stuff” there has been little time for locals to provide input.

As I understand it, there is a process the District must go through to obtain permission to build the bridge anyway, because it is in a designated scenic area, which is not easy, nor is it a sure thing. However, at least that process provides for public input.

I live in Northwest Bend and will likely never use this footbridge, but I am offended that a very small group of individuals have taken this approach to circumvent the process.

Please allow this bill to die in your committee.

Respectfully,
Scott W Taylor
2307 NW Floyd Ln
Bend, OR 97703
swtaylor9967@gmail.com