

**From:** Suzanne Monaco  
**To:** [SENRR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill 2027  
**Date:** Sunday, May 07, 2017 2:18:31 PM

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HI,

I am writing to you as I cannot attend the hearing in person on May 10th. I believe it would be a huge loss to Bend if this Bill to block the pedestrian bridge is passed.

My reasons are as follows:

1. Traffic - As more and more people move to Bend, traffic continues to be a huge problem . This bridge will help alleviate some of this issue as we can access the trails easily and safely. Today, we have to drive through a very congested Reed Market circle through the west side. With the OSU campus, hotel and housing developments, the traffic to the trails is only getting worse.
2. Access - Here are a few examples of what this new bridge will mean to my family. My children will be able to ride their bikes to Cascade Middle School and Bend Athletic Club, easily ride their bikes to see friends across the river instead of a 15 to 20 minute drive and we won't have to drive to many of the trailheads to mountain bike and hike.
3. Home value - A reason home prices are so high on the northwest side of town is because of easy trail access. By taking away this bridge, I believe you are hurting our home values and realtors I have spoken with agree. Trail access is a selling point and is in alignment as to why many people move here. Easily accessible trails should not be limited to those who can afford it!!!

I know people are concerned with the environment and what a pedestrian bridge will do to the area. Bend Parks and Rec do an exceptional job of ensure the natural habitat and environment are protected. People should then be fighting the 70+ new homes that will be built next to River Rim, that will cause more environmental damage to this area than a simple bridge for local use.

We all need to compromise, Bend is growing and with it changes need to be made. People move here to enjoy the outdoor lifestyle and the desire to easily access the trails. The community of Bend voted and agreed we want the river trail to connect, passed a bond to fund it and we need to focus on making that happen. I understand the limitations due to the scenic waterways designation from a local meeting I attended, but all were in agreement these outdated rules and values can be modified to support the growth of Bend and trail accessibility.

To me, this Bill being proposed to the Oregon Senate is unnecessary, as there are greater priorities for the State to focus on. This is a local issue. I question how someone outside of Bend can truly understand its impact to make an informed and educated decision.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Monaco  
61040 Snowberry Place  
Bend, OR 97702