

From: Kristen Phillips
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: please pass HB 2027-A
Date: Monday, May 08, 2017 7:24:28 PM

Dear Senators,

I am writing to urge you to pass HB 2027-A which would protect the wild and scenic area of the Deschutes River. This bill simply elevates administrative protections into statute. I applaud OPRD for rejecting Bend Park and Recreation District's application to weaken protections on the upper Deschutes, however, unless Oregon law is changed, BPRD can still build a bridge on this protected waterway. Oregon's agencies are doing the right thing. The legislature needs to support their actions and permanently protect this stretch of the Deschutes River.

One of my favorite reasons to be a runner in Bend is to enjoy the beauty of Central Oregon. I run the river trail every day and am so grateful for the opportunity to do so. In the next month, the osprey will be back on the dead tree, fixing her nest for her next offspring. We trail enthusiasts get to watch the chicks hatch, feed and learn to fly. It is something I look forward to each year along with seeing bald eagles, golden eagles and otter chasing each other up and down the river back on nearly a daily basis.

This wildlife along with others will not thrive with more people on the trail, which is what a bridge across the Deschutes River will bring. The erosion of the riparian zone as people (and especially mountain bikers) do not stay on the trail, plus the actual construction of the bridge would be absolutely devastating to the area. I am hoping you have seen the destruction of the area where BPRD built their infamous waterpark at the Colorado Bridge. Not only did they wreak un-repairable havoc on the environment but the idea of adding rapids to a river where Mother Nature already supplies them and the forcing of fish to only 1/3 of THEIR river is disgraceful. I am still in utter shock that it was allowed to happen. The Deschutes River deserves better and allowing BPRD to continue their pattern of treating the river with such disrespect and utter disregard for this pristine beauty and wild and scenic area should not be tolerated. The idea of driving pilings into the Deschutes to support such a bridge should be reason enough to pass HB 2027-A as this stretch of river is a protected state scenic waterway and it now falls on you to protect it.

Thank you for your dedication to this state's pristine beauty and environment.

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