

**From:** Mike Condon  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** 2027-A Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, May 08, 2017 2:10:14 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am unable to attend the Senate Environmental and Natural Resources Committee hearing on Wednesday, May 10 in Salem but would like for my testimony to be included in the public record.

I am a registered voter, resident, and home owner in Southwest Bend and am writing to express my support for the Bend Park and Recreation District's planned footbridge at the south end of the Bend urban growth boundary that would connect trail systems on the east and west sides of the Deschutes River. I understand that house bill 2027-A which is currently under consideration by the Oregon legislature would prohibit development of this bridge.

As an active runner and biker, I see this trail connection as an important asset for residents in my neighborhood by expanding recreational opportunities and accessibility to the west side of the Deschutes River. Although the trails on the west side of the Deschutes River are some of the best Central Oregon has to offer and they are located no more than a mile from my home, I must drive my car over 6 miles to access them and park in a number of lots with limited space. I would strongly prefer to access these trails by foot or bike and believe that providing this crossing would reduce vehicle miles and parking needs by providing easy access for many SW Bend residents to the trail network west of the Deschutes River.

I understand it is easy to allow restrictions that don't directly affect your own interests, but I hope that as elected officials you will look at the impact such a prohibition would have on residents in Southwest Bend and the positive impact this trail connection will have on encouraging healthy communities, reducing road congestion, and cutting down on carbon emissions. If you want additional input please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Condon