

May 8, 2017

To the attention of:

Chairman Senator Dembrow, Senator Olsen, Senator Linthicum, Senator Prozanski and Senator Roblan,

I am a ten-year resident of Bend, a professional mountain biker, and utilize the trail systems of Bend, those managed by the Parks District, BLM and Forest Service.

I am opposed to the bridge spanning the Deschutes River in the River Community, as proposed by the Bend Parks and Recreational District and in support of Oregon State HB 2027, prohibiting the constructing of bridges on Deschutes River within certain segments of Deschutes Scenic Waterway.

The current administrative rules specific to the Upper Deschutes State Scenic Waterway currently prohibit bridges. Oregon Administrative Rule 736-040-0073 states: *"New bridges will not be permitted."*

But, State Scenic Waterway law does not require compliance with the state waterway's administrative rules. Through a landowner request process, and a one-year waiting period, the rules can be ignored and a project that does not comply with the Scenic Waterway rules can move forward.

This is a broken system. We have rules, but they don't have to be followed.

Bend Parks and Recreation is taking advantage of this loophole, ignoring the Upper Deschutes State Scenic Waterway rules, and not being transparent with the local community. In addition, Bend Parks doesn't own the land and in order for BPRD to proceed through the request process, they would first have to acquire title, through the purchase or condemnation of the land.

Oregon State HB Bill 2027 would close this loophole, disallowing the construction of a bridge along certain segments of the Deschutes Scenic Waterway and protect the beloved and fragile landscape that is so iconic to our community.

Sincerely,

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