

From: Susan Collins
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Please support House Bill 2027-A
Date: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 10:00:54 AM

Dear Senator Dembrow,

As Chair of the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee, I am writing to ask you to support House Bill 2027-A (HB2027-A), prohibiting the development of any new bridge over “wild and scenic” river stretches in Oregon. I ask that you preserve the long-standing environmental protections put in place to care for our public lands.

I've lived in Oregon most of my life, and I'm a year-round homeowner in Bend. I actively recreate on our public lands, so I am a proponent of providing access to our rivers and forests while also ensuring protection of the lands and wildlife we so cherish. I have been a supporter of Bend Parks and Recreation's efforts to provide one trail system that connects Tumalo to Sunriver, and they've made outstanding progress toward fulfilling the community's desire for this trail connectivity. It is important to note, today there *already exists* a direct trail system/city sidewalk that connects the Deschutes River trail from Bend all the way to Sunriver. Therefore, any proposed bridge over the wild and scenic protected area of the Deschutes to fulfill the community goal of connecting Bend to Sunriver is unnecessary. Instead, the desire for a bridge across this protected section of the river is simply to provide increased access from the eastside of the river to the west. This is a matter of convenience, and it simply is not in the best interest of our greater need to provide environmental protection of the Upper Deschutes River.

Please support the environmentalists, biologists, and citizens who have come together to support 2027-A. The House unanimously voted in favor, and I ask you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Susan Collins

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