

**From:** Keith Wright  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Strong support for House Bill 2027- protect the Upper Deschutes Scenic Waterway  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 12:59:59 PM

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Dear Oregon Senate -

My wife and I strongly support House Bill 2027.

We live in SunRise Village in Bend and spend a lot of time every week in this specific section of river. One of the main reasons we moved into this neighborhood was the private access to a small section of the Deschutes River. I fish in the privately owned Sunrise Village section of the river at least two days a week and down into the canyon and take our dog and children there to enjoy the beauty and quiet of the common area. We also run along other sections of the Deschutes River trail several days a week.

The proposed change to allow bridges in this section of the river must not be allowed for several critical reasons:

1. **Scenery:** There is a very specific reason that bridges are not allowed along this section of river: it is scenic! That is why we love this part of Central Oregon. Ruining the scenery with bridges and more public trails through isolated canyon and rimrock destroys the very thing we love. Isn't that the point? If we don't pause and protect some of what we have in the midst of all this new development, then we are failing ourselves and our children.
2. **Fish:** I am an avid fly fisherman and fish all along the Deschutes River. The healthy fish population through the SunRise Village section of the river is a testament to less pressure and careful catch and release than the sections immediately above and below it. Healthy Redside, Rainbow and a few Brown Trout make this section of the river home. Above and below this private access section it is rare to see or catch any fish. This resource must be protected for the overall health of the river. If public access were granted through this section of the river it would be fished out as has happened in adjacent areas.
3. **Wildlife:** I have seen coyote, bobcats, deer and a wide variety of other animals who live in the remote canyon and Sunrise Village rimrock. This area is an important area for deer and elk wintering. Putting a bridge and trail through this section would move those animals out.
4. **Private property rights:** The state of Oregon and city of Bend has a duty to respect the private property rights of their citizens. Allowing a bridge that would access Sunrise Village land and take users through our neighborhood without the approval of the neighborhood association would be a violation of our property rights. The Sunrise Village board of directors has already clearly voiced opposition to any bridge plans that would access neighborhood property.
5. **It's not broken- don't try to fix it:** I run on different sections of the Deschutes River trail several days every week, all year long. We have more than enough access to this beautiful trail already and destroying part of our ecosystem and violating rights to incrementally add more access is simply a bad idea and poor allocation of resources.

Thank you for supporting House Bill 2027 and for all your good work.

Best regards,

Keith & Heidi Wright

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