

**From:** weallmac@yahoo.com  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony opposing HB 2027-1  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 1:59:04 PM

---

To the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I will start with the fact that this bill only exists because of a perversion of the legislative amendment process some have referred to as “gut and stuff”. Rep. Whisnant, the author of this amendment to the original unrelated bill, didn’t suffer the work and public exposure to create his own bill. Instead he hijacked another bill at the last minute, completely changing the meaning of it, in the hopes of drawing minimal attention.

This co-opted bill was not the product solely of Rep. Whisnant. Testimony from prior hearings regarding this section of the Deschutes River makes it pretty clear that this bill came about primarily to protect the special interests of a few property owners downstream from river mile 172, more so than concerns over environmental protections that some claim.

I am not discounting potential environmental issues that need to be considered in constructing the proposed foot bridge near mile 172. A careful, deliberate process with a broad mix of stakeholders should be followed to examine if a bridge is truly needed, its design elements, placement, any required mitigations, and any practical alternatives. This bill is a very large club, wielded by a select few, intended to prevent this process from occurring.

I hope that members of the committee will recognize this bill for what it really is, and prevent it from moving any further.

Lowell Von Ruden  
Bend Resident