

**From:** Oliver Tatom  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2027  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 3:54:53 PM

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Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 2027, which would prohibit the Bend Parks and Recreation Department from constructing a bridge over the Deschutes River. There are strong arguments both for and against the bridge itself. On the one side are folks who want to preserve the character of their neighborhood, the value of their property, or the scenic nature of that segment of river. On the other side are those who want to encourage active transportation, reduce car trips, and physically connect an increasingly divided city.

The Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation has been reviewing the scenic waterways rule in question, commissioning Community Solutions of Central Oregon to gather input from local stakeholders and report its findings. That report was just submitted on May 5. The parks departments - both state and local - should be given time to study the report and consider its recommendations. And the surrounding community should be given the time and flexibility to further consider the pros and cons of the bridge.

While the merits of the bridge can be debated in good faith, the merits of HB 2027 cannot. Shutting down a contentious but healthy debate on this local issue would represent a terrible abuse of the legislature's authority. Please reject this bill and allow the residents of Central Oregon to continue the hard work of reaching a consensus.

Sincerely,

(submitted via email)

Oliver Tatom  
Bend, OR