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**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#); [Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us](mailto:Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us); [Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us](mailto:Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us); [Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us](mailto:Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us); [Sen Prozanski](#); [Sen Roblan](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2027-A  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 4:25:19 PM

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Dear Senators,

I am writing to strongly encourage you all to reject HB 2027.

This bill, injected by Representative Gene Whisnant (Sunriver), is a dishonest trick – it is supposedly designed to protect the Deschutes River, but in reality is intended to benefit a very small number of wealthy people who do not even live in our town, but own property along the river here.

It is clearly the expressed will of the majority of Bend residents that our popular river trail, (managed in large part by the Bend Parks and Rec organization) be completed and all the disparate parts tied together, because we VOTED on this in 2012. We passed a very large bond designed to support BPR projects, one of which was to complete the river trail. The voters, the people of Bend, want this trail completed. We understood at that time that another footbridge would be built on our river. We have funded and supported and called for this to be done.

This makes Whisnant's last-minute trick, done without contacting BPR or taking public comment, a particularly nasty and craven act that reflects poorly on your institution and your individual and joint integrity. I am ashamed that I live in Rep. Whisnant's district, and he and any other supporters of HB 2027 will never get another of my votes.

I would also like to point out that Bend Parks and Rec has for years engaged in every sort of public involvement possible as it considered the location of the footbridge needed to connect and complete the trail. The proposed location is actually near my home--something I am somewhat conflicted about because I realize the privacy I enjoy will be affected by more foot and bike traffic. However, I have paid very close attention to the process, and feel that a footbridge at the proposed location--at the END of the designated Wild and Scenic section of river and the BEGINNING of the designated UGB and "Community River" section--is absolutely the best place for the footbridge.

PLEASE do not pass HB 2027. Allow Bend to figure this out. We love our river, and work diligently to protect it. We do not need legislation that "protects" a very small contingent of politically connected people at the cost of our whole community's benefit.

Please allow the will of the community of Bend, as expressed in the bond we passed in 2012, to be done.

Sincerely,

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