

**From:** bob  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill 2027  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 5:24:35 PM

---

Committee Members,

Though I have been a resident of Bend for only the last 8 years, I have passed through and stayed in Bend many times in the preceding 20 years. In fact, it was the year-round access to the outdoors, for hiking and skiing, that resulted in the eventual decision to move here.

I have followed Bend parks & Recreation's proposal to link the river trail with the Forest Service trails and recently provided supportive feedback in their online survey. Needless to say I was very shocked, but given the politics of the day, not surprised, to see the recent legislative effort by Rep. Whisnaut to kill the foot bridge option. In such a rush to not tell Parks & Recreation what he was doing...but apparently enough time to several folks from Bachelor View subdivision so they could provide testimony. Thank goodness for the Bulletin's coverage of the story!

Hopefully House Bill 2027 will be killed...if for nothing else than to say "this is not how the legislative process should work"...to say... "We legislators do not condone this special interest legislation that seems to specifically favor well-healed donors".

Instead, I would like to see a clear proposal and assessment of the bridge and no-bridge options. A comparison of the alternative of "east-siders" having access to the Forest Service trails across a couple of miles of path and a foot bridge as an alternative to driving 5 miles and parking at Good Dog or 7 miles to Meadow Camp. Of letting folks from Widgi Creek walk or bike to shopping on the east side, rather than driving. Is the impact to deer and elk greater with increased vehicle traffic or with foot and bike traffic?

I look at the area around the proposed bridge and say; this isn't wilderness; it is very urban with thousands of homes within a few mile radius on the east side. I would hate to the the solution be one requiring the "east-siders" to drive to the trailheads, creating increased congestion on Reed market, and that the next proposal being a 4-lane highway across this stretch of the river. Lets find solutions that favor more walking and biking; not driving to get to the forest trails!

I hope that you do not approve House Bill 2027.

Regards,  
Robert Timmer  
1184 NW Redfield Cir  
bend, Or 97703