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May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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

Re:HB2027-A

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Central Oregon LandWatch is a 501(c)3 non-profit with 212 members and many more supporters dedicated to defending our natural resources for future generations. The following are comments we have already submitted to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department related to our opposition to the proposed bridge.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department asked for community input on whether to open up the **Oregon Scenic Waterway** rules to potentially allow for a bridge across the Deschutes River at the south end of town. Currently a bridge is prohibited in the area where it is proposed.

This section of the river is a **wildlife dense area** that has elk, deer, coyotes, blue herons, bald eagles, golden eagles, osprey, beavers, and more.

One concern is that **if a bridge is allowed, more people may visit the area, which could threaten these animal communities and could degrade existing riparian vegetation.**

Opening up the Oregon Scenic Waterway rules could allow this bridge and set a precedent leading to other bridges in River Communities sections throughout Oregon, including in the Metolius. We believe there is inadequate information to assess what kind of impacts this would have.

Attached is a petition which we have supported regarding the proposed bridge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Dewey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "P" and "D".

Paul Dewey  
Executive Director



Central Oregon LandWatch



# PETITION TO PROTECT THE UPPER DESCHUTES SCENIC WATERWAY

Oregon Scenic waterways should be preserved for their intrinsic natural values and establish a balance between the outstandingly remarkable values and special attributes. Recreation at the expense of our wildlife, riparian areas, fisheries and scenic waterways is irresponsible. We are concerned about the precedent opening the rules would have for all of Oregon's rivers and we strongly support not opening the Oregon Scenic Waterway Rules and retaining the existing prohibition against new bridges in the Upper Deschutes Scenic Waterway. We oppose any new bridges and trails in the River Community segment 4G because of the outstandingly remarkable wildlife and vegetation that supports that wildlife.

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Name of group or individual

Date

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Please print your name or group

If you are a landowner along the river please indicate that.