

## Don Horton

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**From:** Don Horton  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 01, 2017 8:39 AM  
**To:** 'Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us'; 'Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us';  
Sen.floydprozanski@oregonlegislature.gov; Sen.arnieroblan@oregonlegislature.gov;  
Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us  
**Subject:** HB 2027 Final Comments  
**Attachments:** HB2027-4 Bend Park and Recreat Submittal.docx; Environmenl Groups Argument in Favor.docx; Explanatory Statement.docx

Senator Dembrow and Committee Members:

After yesterday's work session I wanted to offer further information that may help in your decision. As a quick review I offer the following bullets. In addition there is more supporting information for A-4 attached including support from local and state environmental groups.

1. A-3 does not work for the Bend Park and Recreation District because the USFS will not allow the District to enter the NEPA process or apply for a bridge themselves as long as the State has a no bridge rule. It would also take all other options off the table. Legislation would fix this.
2. The land now being proposed for no-bridge legislation lies entirely within Knute Buehler's district. Knute has told me and Neil Bryant that he will support the bridge if it is located on USFS property therefore if there is no concurrence with the House, Knute Buehler should support concurrence in the House.
3. The proponents of this no-bridge rule has never, in two years of consideration, approached the Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors with their concerns even after having asked the main proponent to do so on two separate occasions. Why are they asking the legislature to "fix" this when they have not attempted to do so locally?
4. A-3 will have the same effect as the House dash 1 amendment by killing this project and honoring a few landowners at the expense of thousands of residents in Bend.
5. A-4 provides the only compromise and while it may have a concurrence problem it's the only option that supports an overwhelming majority of Bend residents that support this project.
6. The proponents of A-3 claim that no environmental groups would support a bridge across an Oregon Scenic Waterway, yet just this last year a permit was issued to build a pedestrian bridge across the scenic waterway ½ mile upstream of Bend. Furthermore several environmental groups supported the bond measure to help fund this project, see attached voter pamphlet argument.
7. Several bridges and over 200 docks currently exist on the upper Deschutes, all of which are in the scenic waterway. The Scenic Waterway Act was not intended to prevent recreation.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

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**Don Horton, Executive Director**

**For scheduling, please contact Vanessa DeMoe (541) 706-5161**

Direct: (541) 706-6101 / Office: (541) 389-7275 / Fax: (541) 330-1019

Bend Park & Recreation District Office, 799 SW Columbia St., Bend, OR 97702

**<http://www.bendparksandrec.org/>**