

Deborah Goodall  
19455 Sugar Mill Loop  
Bend, OR 97702

February 3, 2018

House Committee on Agriculture and National Resources  
Representative Brian Clem, Chair  
[900 Court Street, NE](#)  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger and members of the Committee:

American author, environmental activist, cultural critic, and farmer, Wendell Berry wrote, "We know enough of our own history by now to be aware that people exploit what they have merely concluded to be of value, but *they defend what they love.*"

I believe when it's used *respectfully*, the Deschutes River Trail serves as a stepping stone to loving and ultimately defending all of our public lands. It's a gem, and yes, I love it best when I'm on it alone. But it doesn't belong to me. It belongs to all of us.

I support a *pedestrian* bridge for additional access to the Deschutes River Trail for the same reason it would be ludicrous to stock a city library with books but not encourage citizen access to read them for fear the readers will crease bindings, dog ear pages – or diminish the coveted views of the book collection enjoyed by a handful of patrons in expensive lawn chairs.

It's been suggested by those opposed to the bridge that folks using the trail are "spandex-covered bicyclists, dog walkers and pot-smoking hikers." Maybe that's their perception from where they sit. What's harder but more important to see is the trail's role nurturing citizens who love the river and land and who will then project that love into a broader commitment to defend public lands here and beyond. Berry wrote, "we love what we particularly know." More of us, not fewer, need to know the Deschutes River Trail.

Bend's continued growth is well noted. State leaders recognize it as an important budding urban center – and have approved, among other things, an expanded urban growth boundary and funding for a four-year university. Does it make sense and is it fair to encourage growth on one hand and on the other limit access to the primary recreational asset that draws new residents to Bend?

Sincerely,



Deborah Goodall