

Hamre Jaime

From: Oliver Tatom <olivertatom@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 7:58 AM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Cc: council@bendoregon.gov; phil.henderson@deschutes.org;
Tammy.Baney@deschutes.org; Tony DeBone; board@bendparksandrec.org
Subject: HB 4029

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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February 4, 2018

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Representative Brian Clem, Chair
900 Court Street Northeast
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4029

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

I am writing to express my opposition to a ban on new bridges across the Deschutes River in Bend. This legislation is clearly aimed at one bridge in particular, a pedestrian bridge that would be built by the Bend Parks and Recreation District to connect the Deschutes River Trail. The bridge would be good for Bend and the state legislature should not block it.

While I am sympathetic to arguments against development on wild and scenic rivers, such a designation is wildly inappropriate here. Both sides of the river at the proposed bridge site are already heavily developed with luxury homes. Moreover, any environmental costs of the bridge must be weighed against the potential gains.

There are few means of crossing the Deschutes River, forcing residents and visitors southeast of Bend to drive a dozen miles or more to access a popular recreation area they might otherwise reach by hiking or biking. As a lifelong voter who ranks conservation near the top of my priorities, I believe we should be doing all we can to make it easier for Oregonians to get out of their cars. This legislation would have the opposite effect.

There are many urgent issues that deserve consideration by the legislature in the short 2018 session, but this bridge ban is not among them. Please kill this bill.

Sincerely,

(via email)

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