

Hamre Jaime

From: Dr. Keith W. Harris <drkeithwharris@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 3:06 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Oppose House Bill 4029

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I am writing in opposition to **House Bill 4029**, which will ban construction of a footbridge in a section of the Deschutes River between Bend and Sunriver. The footbridge in question is a centerpiece of Bend's plan to connect foot and bike trails on the east and west sides of the river. A poll last year indicated that over 70% of Bend residents support construction of this footbridge. As a resident in southwest Bend, the footbridge would allow me to access the river trail as well as the mountain biking trails of Phil's Trail complex all without ever getting into a car. This would dramatically change our quality of life, and increase the value of our home. I am a passionate conservationist and believe in protecting our natural resources. But those opposing this footbridge are not doing so for the sake of protection wild spaces. Their opposition is classic NIMBY-ism of the worst kind, and the fact that they are cloaking it under a veil of protecting the river is shameful evidence of it. I have hiked in wilderness areas throughout the west, and all of them have footbridges. Rather than despoil nature, they facilitate our ability to engage in it, in a way that honors it.

PLEASE oppose this bill, and allow the majority preference to proceed in Bend and build this footbridge. Thank you.

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