

Hamre Jaime

From: Steven Jones <scjones8402@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 2:55 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: HB 4029

I am writing you to let you know that I **do not** support the passage of HB 4029. Almost 71 percent of the residents in the Bend area support the proposed bridge. There are currently 9 other bridges already in place in scenic waterway designations along the Deschutes River. The proposed bridge is not the first/only bridge in this designated area.

There are homes already in the scenic area on both sides of the river close to the proposed location of this bridge. There is now a 78 parcel subdivision being built along/above the Deschutes River within about 1000 feet of the proposed bridge. This area is not a "scenic" area by any stretch of the imagination. While walking along the rivers edge at/near the proposed bridge location, you are almost walking in the backyards of homes located just above the high water mark.

I was on a citizen committee that studied the proposed locations of bridges to allow for foot traffic. The only people on the committee that were against it were the people who already lived at/near the proposed location. They had money on their side and even hired attorneys to represent them on the citizen committee. These people only cared about not having this bridge anywhere near their houses that they had built along this stretch of the river.

I understand that there are environmental issues, but the committee felt that these had been addressed with the small footprint for the supports for the bridge. Lastly, the US Forest Service has actually put in a new large parking lot with paved trails to improve foot path /bike access to the exact spot of the location of this proposed bridge on the west side of the river. It now makes even more sense to have a footbridge installed to service the increased traffic that is going to utilize this improved area.

Thank You for your time.

Steven Jones

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