

Tenney Matthew

From: Beckie Spurger <spurgerb@aim.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 6:26 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits; Rep Clem; Rep McLain; Rep Sprenger; Rep Barreto; Rep Esquivel; Rep McKeown; Rep Salinas; Rep Smith D; Rep Witt
Cc: Rep Whisnant; Rep Buehler; Sen Knopp
Subject: NO on HB 4029 - Deschutes Footbridge

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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DO NOT BAN THE FOOTBRIDGE.

We are voters, taxpayers and property owners too. We live in the River Rim neighborhood, within easy walking distance of the proposed footbridge over the Deschutes River to connect with public **lands** on the west side. The public trails already go through our private development. We knew that when we bought our property. Later, we **voted for** the Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD) bond measure specifically because we **wanted the bridge** built and make the connection. It will mean more traffic in our area - and again, we knew that when we voted. The City of Bend, the BPRD, and the various State and Federal agencies have been planning and working on this project for **decades**.

Deschutes River at the south end of Bend is beautiful. It ALREADY has protections to keep it that way, namely the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act. That act seeks harmony between beauty and development. It does ban bridges, such as the one proposed by the BPRD. But the ban is not necessarily permanent. It provides for a year for property owners and the State to **work out their differences** and then a bridge could move ahead. **Let the process already established be used in the full light of day, with facts and science informing the debate - not politics or money or threat of obstructionist litigation.**

The west side property owners that fooled Rep. Whisnant and influence Rep. Buehler knew about the plans also. They just bided their time to be obstructionists and litigators. They are not concerned with the environmental impacts. They are concerned about their supposed "timber" growing tax breaks. Growth is a social issue with environmental impact. Growth in backyards of the Mt. Bachelor View Rd. area is a fact that the residents probably don't like but can only oppose on an environmental basis. They have the financial and political resources to do that. Another restricted activity is the building of houses or other structures. While the bridge idea has drawn ire from people in certain housing developments, there are already many large homes and roads within the boundaries of the scenic waterway. In a longer range view of growth there may be a need for a car traffic bridge south of Bend. Perhaps **that** is the road block reason for the wording that there be **no** bridge crossing?

Let the existing process work.

Beckie Spurger
19545 Pond Meadow Ct
Bend, OR 97702