

## Hamre Jaime

---

**From:** Mike and Linda Eisele <lameisele@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2018 9:47 PM  
**To:** HAGNR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Submitted Testimony HB4029

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

February 7, 2017

To: House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Chair        Representative Brian Clem  
Vice-Chair    Representative Susan McLain  
Vice-Chair    House Assistant Republican Leader Sherrie Sprenger  
Member       Representative Greg Barreto  
Member       Representative Sal Esquivel  
Member       Representative Caddy McKeown  
Member       Representative Andrea Salinas  
Member       Representative David Brock Smith  
Member       Representative Brad Witt

Re: Submitted Testimony HB4029, Please Vote Yes

Dear Chair and Members

I urge you to vote yes for HB4029, on behalf of the Coalition for the Deschutes, [coalitionforthedeschutes.org](http://coalitionforthedeschutes.org), a non-profit advocate for the health of the river, its habitat and wildlife, and for responsible farming and recreation uses.

Creating a recreation trail from Bend to Sunriver is an admiral goal. A bridge is not required to complete such a trail. HB4029 directs the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to work with affected parties to plan this trail, without a bridge.

The 'no bridge' rule has existed for the upper Deschutes River since 1996, designed to help protect the wild and scenic values of the river, close to the Bend urban area. I was a member of the 2016-2017 Upper Deschutes Advisory Group, formed by OPRD to study all

of its rules, including the bridge ban. The UDAG process included stakeholders from local, state and Federal agencies as well as input from multiple public meetings in Bend. The UDAG final report concluded that rules protecting the Upper Deschutes River need strengthening to protect its wild and scenic values. As a result of the report, OPRD Director Sumption decided no change for the state's Deschutes River bridge ban rule near Bend. Yet developers like Bend Parks and Recreation District continue to try to circumvent this rule, to build a bridge that is not within their district boundary, and not in the City of Bend, but is in Oregon's Wild and Scenic Waterway boundary. The Deschutes River must not be treated as just another park for the city of Bend.

Oregon's Wild and Scenic Waterways exist for the benefit of all its citizens, its visitors, and its future generations. The river must be protected, as intended, by its Wild and Scenic Waterway designation. The threat to circumventing Oregon's Upper Deschutes bridge ban rule is a statewide issue. When public or private developers can create loopholes to circumvent Wild and Scenic rule protections, then this precedent would threaten the entire state Wild and Scenic Waterway system.

Please vote yes for HB4029.

Regards,

Michael Eisele, Board Member

Coalition for the Deschutes

Bend, Oregon