



TO: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
FROM: Michael Klein, ORPA Association Director
DATE: February 6, 2018
RE: Opposition to HB 4029

On behalf of nearly 1,700 members of the Oregon Recreation and Park Association (ORPA), including 62 park and recreation agencies as well as professionals, and volunteers, I want to express concerns regarding House Bill 4029.

Oregon has provided to local governments both goals and methods for attaining the State's goals for both indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities for Oregon citizens. Planning and development of trails is an important part of what parks and recreation districts, cities and counties do and the Oregon Park and Recreation Department provides the process with checks, balances and appeals processes. HB 4029 pre-empts the bridge and local trail planning process as well as the local government transportation planning process.

The State Scenic Waterway law was put into place by the legislature to guide conversation and process when particular rivers are involved in local planning. But designation as a scenic waterway is not a bridge prohibition and the legislature should not make it one. The intent of the designation and the system developed is to encourage property owners to evaluate design changes to reach agreement within a year timeframe before proceeding with development.

ORPA believes that a local, collaborative effort results in the best option for recreational opportunity development and protection of a scenic waterway corridor. Maintaining local control leads to net positive outcomes for conservation, recreation, and the community.