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From: Korina Riggin <kriggin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:37 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Please oppose House Bill 4029

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February 6, 2018

House Committee on Agriculture and National Resources
Representative Brian Clem, Chair
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger and members of the Committee:

As a resident of Bend, I, along with thousands of other residents know how important community and outdoor recreation is to us. In Bend, they are intertwined. That's why we live here. Science is proving how important connecting with the outdoors is for us as well. That's why it's so important to have trail accessibility and connectivity. The trails link one neighborhood to the next, one town to the next, one community to the next. This proposed footbridge would enable that accessibility and connection to occur.

Right now the the neighborhoods in south west Bend are cut off to the trail system, that's about 10,000 people. We have to *DRIVE* from our homes about 25+/- minute or 11-16 mile drive, pending on starting point and traffic, to Rim Rock Park, the end of the existing Deschutes River Trail. This footbridge would eliminate that for drive us. It will get people out of our cars, helping alleviate severely overburdened streets. A survey conducted in the spring of 2017 showed that 72% of the respondents supported completing a footbridge, while 14% opposed.

Yes, there are a few people fighting this bridge tooth and nail showing NIBYism (Not In My Backyard) at it finest, or should I say its worst. Those few residents are claiming that "it will effect the wildlife". If you look at the photo below, one can clearly see that their enormous lots, in which all native vegetation has been removed, are now building huge houses. *This* will effect wildlife significantly more than any footbridge. On the other hand, if it is decided, through collaborative process that the footbridge is the best option, Bend Parks and Rec Department would provide resources to improve the riverbank habitat, trail management, reduce erosion and establish new wetlands. This improvement would help lessen the detrimental impacts of the lots scraping building of the McMansions.

There is an existing footbridge, called South Canyon Footbridge as the current southern most footbridge over the Deschutes River. This footbridge clearly shows that there can be a balance with nature and human development. It is imperative to keep the planning and development process left in the hands of both the City of Bend and Deschutes County. It' would give us the most flexibility and options. South Canyon Footbridge is a great example of that process.

HB 4029 is in conflict with the Bend Transportation System Plan, the Deschutes Greenway Study, and the Bend Park and Recreation District's Trail Plan. These plans have been in place for at least two decades. The Deschutes National Forest Alternative Transportation Plan further supports the bridge if environmental concerns can be addressed. All of these plans call for a bridge to connect southern Bend to the Deschutes National Forest in the same location that the District board has proposed the bridge to be located.

I oppose HB 4029. I ask that you too oppose HB 4029. This proposed footbridge has been in the plans with many agencies for at least 20 years. It is a vital piece to connecting neighbors, neighborhoods and communities. It will get people out of our cars and on the trail. It has overwhelming local support. The power needs to stay local so we can

collaboratively figure out for ourselves what the best option is. If it does get installed, we will do proper conservation and restoration to minimize the impact.

So again, please oppose HB 4029.

Sincerely,
Korina Riggin
Bend resident

