

## Hamre Jaime

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**From:** Scott Taylor <swtaylor9967@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2018 3:08 PM  
**To:** HAGNR Exhibits  
**Subject:** HB 4029

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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House Committee on Agriculture and National Resources  
Representative Brian Clem, Chair

RE: HB 4029

Dear Chairman Clem, members of the committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 4029. As the bill has no designated sponsor and was submitted as a committee bill, I assume the proponents wish to remain anonymous.

The bill would stop a proposed pedestrian and bike bridge over the Deschutes river just south of Bend. This bridge has been in planning for many years. It is part of a number of connections to the trails that extend along the river from Sunriver in the south to Tumalo State Park in the north.

More importantly, it provides easier access for people east of the river on the south end of town to access the numerous trails west of the river in the Deschutes National Forest. This saves gasoline and decreases the traffic impacts of people now driving through town to access these trails.

For some reason this section of the river has been designated part of the Deschutes Scenic Waterway which itself restricts what can be developed anyway. However, there are numerous homes in the area on both sides of the river, which I would guess is where this bill has its origin. This is no wild, unspoiled, section with no existing traffic. Though it is quite attractive, to put wilderness type restrictions on it makes no sense.

I learned this morning in a Bend Bulletin editorial that Bend voters supported a park district bond measure in 2012 (a year before I moved here) that included the bridge. I understand that bond measure was supported by groups including the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Trout Unlimited, Oregon Natural Desert Association, and the Trust for Public Lands. Those groups are not groups I would consider land rapists.

It appears this bill is primarily supported by folks who just don't want the bridge near their back yards.

As far as impact to me personally, I live in Northwest Bend, west of the river and several miles from these trails. I'm not impacted by the bridge, nor am I impacted by this part of the Deschutes National Forest. It is unlikely I will ever use the bridge. I just think it makes no sense to prohibit this long proposed bridge in this manner. I assume the Scenic Waterway designation places significant restrictions on the bridge development as it is. Please let this bill die in committee.

I request this letter be made a part of the record.

Thank you,  
Scott W Taylor  
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