

## Hamre Jaime

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**From:** Mollie Chaudet <ttn287@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:03 PM  
**To:** HAGNR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Testimony on HB 4029

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The Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dear Chairman Clem Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of HB 4029. I have lived in the Bend area for more than 35 years, and have seen many changes and may hard fought battles to protect the Upper Deschutes River. Sometimes legislation proves to be the only way to protect our state's scenic waterways. The Bend Parks and Recreation District, in seeking to undermine the Upper Deschutes Wild and Scenic River and State Scenic Waterway Comprehensive River Management Plan without a public process to change that plan, has presented Oregonians with an unpleasant alternative. That alternative is a legislative prohibition on building the bridge that is articulated in this proposed bill. The bill is far from a perfect solution, in my opinion, but I believe it is the best solution that can be offered given the intractable position taken by the Bend Parks and Recreation Department. I am not usually in support of legislation that so prescriptively targets one place when there are other, equally precious places along the Upper Deschutes River that could be similarly threatened in the future. Unfortunately, the threat to the portion of the river included in the legislation is clearly urgent. The Park District has made their disregard for any other resources other than recreation evident in their unrelenting approach to building this bridge - only three miles from the next closest bridge - outside of any public process. They continue to publicly trumpet their desire to funnel more and more people into the river corridor and onto the national forest with no regard for the intent of the either the state Scenic Waterways Act or the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. I urge you to approve this bill, which will help the Bend Parks and Recreation District to focus our taxpayer dollars on trail connections that avoid rather than add additional impacts to our fragile river resources. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

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