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February 6, 2018

HB 4029: Support

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

My name is Paul Dewey and I am testifying today on behalf of Central Oregon LandWatch as its Executive Director and attorney. LandWatch was organized in the mid-1980s and has operated for over 30 years in Central Oregon working to encourage conservation of both private and public lands. Our mission is to achieve a balanced and integrated approach to land use planning in Central Oregon that will safeguard our natural resources and environment and foster socially and economically thriving communities. We have over 200 members.

We are in support of HB 4029 not only because we believe that the underlying State Scenic Waterway and Wild and Scenic River provisions have found that a bridge is not appropriate here, but also because of the extensive recreation use that has developed on the west side of Bend. We are very concerned with impacts to wildlife, and in particular impacts to wildlife which depend on the rare waterways such as this. Given the extensive existing recreation development, including trails, that already exist along the Deschutes River, there is no justification for having more.

Please vote in favor of HB 4029. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Paul Dewey,
Executive Director
Central Oregon LandWatch

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Protecting Central Oregon's Natural Environment And Working For Sustainable Communities