
From: Amy Stuart <amystuart63@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 10:09 AM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: HB 4029 Support

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Dear members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

my husband and I live in central Oregon and enjoy the beautiful rivers of our region. We regularly recreate on our rivers. I am sending this email to ask for your support for House Bill 4029. This bill would improve protection for the Deschutes River.

The Deschutes is currently designated as both a State Scenic Waterway and a Federal Wild and Scenic River. These designations were put in place to help protect proposed developments, including a potential bridge that would set a legal precedent and diminish our river and public land protections. My husband and I are very upset and concerned about reducing and removing public land protections and the precedent it would set.

The existing administrative rule - OAR 736-040-0073 - was established more than 20 years ago, and the legislature needs to support the intent by adopting HB 4029 and protect this stretch of river for many more years.

This bridge would cause irreparable impacts to the upper Deschutes River and cause harm to wildlife habitat in the river corridor. Rivers are incredibly important habitat and provide connective corridors for many species such as spotted frogs, bald eagles, mule deer, beaver, otters, and songbirds. Increased human disturbance in the river corridor from the bridge and increased foot and bike traffic will harm these species and their habitats.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has already had in the past 3 years, two public processes including stakeholder groups, open houses, and public meetings to discuss this issue. It has been thoroughly reviewed, discussed and argued over locally. Both times, the conclusion of each process was to maintain current river protections.

Please vote in favor of HB 4029.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Stuart
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