
From: Karen Hoeper <kdh55@bendcable.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 11:48 AM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: HB 4029

February 7, 2018

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

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

Good Day,

I am writing in favor of a proposed FOOT BRIDGE over the Deschutes river, connecting the east side to the Forest Service land on the west side of the river, and to future and existing trails.

I am also writing to oppose HB 4029.

Oregon Wilds comments, suggest that the Bend Park and Rec. Dept. and other agencies that support the bridge and connecting trails, are not interested in protecting the environment, therefore a ban of bridges is needed. I fail to see how either the bridge itself, or the trail users will have a negative impact on the environment along the river. Currently, boaters can access these parts of river, people fishing on the river or bank, also. Habit is not being destroyed! Studies and public input are still being taken, so thinking its imperative to pass this bill is wrong.

What should be considered, is who (and why) is behind HB 4029. Landowners (or owner) on the west side of the river adjacent to US Forest Service Land, with money, and friends in the legislature, seem to be very interested in preventing access to 'their' neighborhood. Essentially, the final decision on this matter is a local, not state one, and HB 4029 should be shelved.

Our family has lived in Bend for almost 50 years. 35 years in the area of the proposed bridge site, and further east now. There has been tremendous growth and change in Central Oregon, and I feel like the Park and Rec has always had the best interest of this growing population, providing wonderful parks, trails for all, and facilities for all sorts of activities. The environment is always an important part of this.

Sincerely. Karen Hoeper