
From: Gretchen Valido <gbvalido@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 11:53 AM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Cc: Rep Buehler; Gene Whisnant
Subject: I support HB 4029

To: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee members:

It's my understanding HB 4029 will be taken up soon in your committee. I urge you to support this bill to protect the Deschutes River.

As a State Scenic Waterway and Federal Wild & Scenic River, any development, in particular a bridge, would diminish the protection of these designations and would inevitably be cited in future attempts to locate other development either on this river or other protected rivers. In this era of attacks on our coastal waters for oil drilling, on shrinking national monuments for mining, on national parks through neglect, and shirking of responsibility by the EPA under Scott Pruitt, we need to uphold norms as well as legal protections already in place. A nibble here, a nibble there, and we lose forever what sets us apart, so I urge you to hold firm. This is serious business.

Let's set a precedence of protection and upholding what the people of Oregon have already concluded: keep protections strong, we love our rivers and surrounding wildlife corridors that have been home to wildlife for centuries. We highly value nature's place in our lives. It's why we cherish Oregon's bounty of beauty and wildness and are determined to protect it now and for future generations.

Thank you for your service.

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