
From: Katrina Hays <katrinahays1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 4:08 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Oppose HB 4029

7 February 2018

House Committee on Agriculture and National Resources

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

I am a resident on River Bend Drive, in a neighborhood very directly impacted by the proposed bridge. (It is suggested this bridge go in at the end of my street.) I have been a resident of Bend for 19 years.

Please oppose HB 4029 for the wrong-headed legislation it is.

The people of Bend voted for a bond in 2012 to (among other things) fund and connect our heavily-used River Trail so that the whole community could have access to the recreational opportunities offered by that trail.

Currently, a huge number of Bend residents who live on the east side of the Deschutes River must travel over 10 miles by car or bike in order to access the existing trail. This is patently unfair.

It is unfortunate that people who have not lived in our community for very long, or at all as full-time residents, feel that no bridge should go in. The fact that this legislation has been brought by these special-interest individuals goes against the spirit of Bend and the larger needs of the community, rather than the interests of the individual.

I admit to fear that our private path, which is near the proposed footbridge location, will be affected by an increased number of people in the area. However I feel strongly that intelligent river access and connecting the east- and west-side arms of the River Trail is more important than my personal desire for privacy. I also am a longtime user of the River Trail, and have observed over the years how Bend Parks and Rec works hard to protect existing river communities, with signage, structural architecture, and plantings.

It is a mistake, and wrong-headed state legislation, to step in and stop this local process before we—the people who voted for and funded this project— have a chance to figure out how best to accomplish what our community needs.

Please do not pass HB 4029. Allow our community the time and space necessary to do our planning and process locally.

Sincerely,

Katrina Hays

Bend Resident