

Dear House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

I am writing in support of HB 4029, the Deschutes River bill. As a resident of Southwest Bend and an avid trail runner and hiker, I would in theory benefit from the proposed bridge. However, I believe river and public lands protection is more important than my personal recreation. I strongly support the conservation of wildlife in the river corridor and am concerned that a bridge would negatively impact animals living in and migrating through the river corridor. There are currently numerous trails throughout the Bend area for runners, hikers, and bikers. We need to balance these recreation trails with preserving wildlife habitat. I do not feel that the proposed bridge will do that.

I am also very concerned with the current threats to public lands across the country. I am unable to support a bridge development when it can only be done by weakening environmental protections. River protections are meaningless when we only adhere to them when convenient.

Sincerely,
Kevin Doner