

Dear Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 4029, to better protect the beautiful wilderness along the pristine Deschutes River. This area is currently protected by a designation as a State Scenic Waterway and a Federal Wild and Scenic River. These protections must be strengthened, which I understand House Bill 4029 would do. I understand there are proposals for development. The existing protections, put in place more than twenty years ago, demonstrate Oregon's long standing concern about the wilderness. We should honor and strengthen them.

I have walked and hiked along the Deschutes for over sixty years, ie. from Bend to Benham Falls. The area is home to a myriad of species of birds and animals. I don't need to name them all. Why would we want to infringe on their habitat? Once we destroy a wilderness it may never recover. I would want my great-grand-children (and I have one) to enjoy the Deschutes River as I have. We are not a Zilke state. In Oregon we preserve and protect our public lands and beaches and stunning wilderness rivers.

Please adopt HB 4029 and ensure that this pristine part of the Deschutes River can be protected for many more years.

Thank you,  
Rosemarie Rosenfeld

Sent from my iPad