

February 7, 2018

House Committee on Agriculture and National Resources
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

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

I am writing in opposition to HB 4029. The bill would ban any new bridges across the Deschutes River from the Central Oregon Irrigation District intake to a location upriver of Sunriver.

This bill would remove an aspect of transportation planning from local control. Through its land use planning program, the state of Oregon has specific requirements for how cities and counties must complete transportation planning for all modes. The City Transportation System Plan (TSP) was amended in 2006 in response to direction from the Department of Land Use and Development to increase the connectivity of the City's trail system. The TSP specifically references the proposed bridge.

A bicycle and pedestrian bridge would provide a significant connectivity improvement to the regional pedestrian and bicycle system. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities are integral elements of the transportation system and valuable components in the strategy to reduce reliance on automobiles. The community benefits in many ways from enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities including reduced traffic congestion, improved public health, and improved access to all parts of the community. In addition to reducing traffic, non-motorized trips reduce noise and protect air quality. The air quality issue is particularly important to Central Oregonians, as the pristine mountain views and clean air are resources greatly valued by the community.

Respectfully,

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