

Hamre Jaime

From: Timothy Lester <timlester@me.com>
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To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: HB 4029

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February 9, 2018

House Committee on Agriculture and National Resources
Representative Brian Clem, Chair
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

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

I oppose House Bill 4029.

A small number of influential supporters of the prohibition want to protect their private patrolled enclave on the river from a growing city that wants and has voted to pay for a recreation trail east/west crossing bridge. They therefore seek to block the recreation bridge in what is classified as a 1 mile urban segment of the Deschutes river with private developed land on both sides. Sponsors and supporters of this bill claim esthetic scenic and environmental reasons to oppose a pedestrian bridge at the immediate UGB upstream point of this river segment. The 1 mile segment of the Deschutes river immediately downstream of the proposed bridge is classified as an "urban river environment". An esthetically pleasing recreational pedestrian bridge like others existing in the city is consistent with the established appearance requirements for homes built on its banks in in this 1 mile segment of the river through city residential zoned city properties.

If environmental impact precludes a recreational bridge then there must be fact based studies identifying all of them. If migration routes are effected then the bridge might be closed during the migration season. Migration did not preclude the building of the Deschutes National Forest Cascade Visitor Center. The center will be closed and lights turned off during migration. If it has been determined what time that migration will happen in fall and spring then the recreational bridge can be closed for the same period.

I contend that "Elk migration" in this area is a meme repeated often enough to be presently believed because a fact was once documented by historical studies and anecdotal evidence when Elk Meadow housing was bare land. If there are elk seen in the area there is a difference between crossing the river to feed on irrigated grass land in the vicinity of Buck Canyon Rd and returning across the river, not passing through on a migration.

I urge you to kill this bill and devote your time to legislation matters benefiting general public interest rather than private interest agenda at public benefit expense.

Sincerely,

Tim Lester
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Bend, Oregon