

Hamre Jaime

From: Timmy Crawford <timmydcrawford@gmail.com>
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To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Testimony on HB 4029

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Dear Chairman Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger and members of the committee:

I was hoping to attend the hearing last week to voice my support of HB 4029 in person, but a business trip prevented me from doing so. Over the last 17 years, I have been a witness to the explosive growth in Bend. With that influx of new residents, and along with it more tourism, I have also noticed the impact on the things that attracted many of us here in the first place.

Trails are crowded, littered with trash, and nearby vegetation impacted. In some areas, conflicts arise between user groups as trail systems are taxed beyond capacity. It has gotten to a point even where the Forest Service is pursuing limiting access to high traffic areas in an attempt to limit further damage (http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2016/09/forest_service_may_limit_access.html). The very thing that brought many of us here is being loved to death.

So now we are faced with a threat from within our community that is seeking to weaken, or even exploit some loopholes in the designation of our Wild and Scenic River. This protection was hard fought for, and put in place for this very reason - to prevent future residents of the area from developing too much. HB 4029 fortunately is poised to strengthen the protection of the Wild and Scenic designation and prevent yet another area near Bend from being over-loved.

The proposed bridge does not increase access, it merely makes it more convenient for a small portion of residents. I would most definitely "win" with this new access, as I could walk out my front door and easily access miles of trails within the Deschutes NF using the proposed bridge - but this non-stop development of our wild treasures needs to stop - and instead we should be focusing our energies and dollars on restoring the damage that has already been done, not creating more.

Thank you for your time.

Timmy Crawford
60696 River Bend Dr
Bend, OR 97702