

Hamre Jaime

From: Peter Wheary <pwheary@greenloopsolutions.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 12:52 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Cc: Amy Wheary
Subject: house bill 4029

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February 12, 2018

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

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

My wife and I are unable to attend the House Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee hearing on Thursday, February 8th in Salem but would like for our testimony to be included in the public record.

We are registered voters, residents, and longtime home owners in Southwest Bend (15 years). I am writing to express my support for the Bend Park and Recreation District's planned footbridge at the south end of the urban growth boundary that would connect trail systems on the east and west sides of the Deschutes River.

I understand that house bill 4029 which is currently under consideration by the Oregon legislature would prohibit development of this bridge. As active runners and bikers, our family sees this trail connection as an important asset for our family and other residents in our neighborhood by expanding recreational opportunities and accessibility to the west side of the Deschutes River. Although the trails on the west side of the Deschutes River are some of the best Central Oregon has to offer and they are located no more than a mile from my home, we must drive 11-16 miles roundtrip to access them and park in a number of lots with limited space.

We would strongly prefer to access these trails by foot or bike and believe that providing this crossing would reduce vehicle miles and parking needs by providing easy access for many SW Bend residents to the trail network west of the Deschutes River.

I understand it is easy to allow restrictions that don't directly affect your own interests, but I hope that as elected officials you will look at the impact such a prohibition would have on residents in Southwest Bend and the positive impact this trail connection will have on encouraging healthy communities, reducing road congestion and cutting down on carbon emissions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peter and Amy Wheary
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President

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