

Hamre Jaime

From: Beverly Phillips <beverlyp@bendbroadband.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 12:46 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Testimony on HB 4029

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The Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

I am a Bend resident and strongly support HB 4029. A significant portion of the area being protected by this legislation has been designated by Deschutes County as an Area of Special Interest. Contained within this Area of Special Interest is the Helen M Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary. The Thompson family, which has owned this property for generations, elected to set aside this undeveloped section of wetland and riparian habitat for wildlife, to protect the animals with no voice. It has taken them many years to establish the sanctuary, and now their mission has been achieved. The sanctuary is managed by Dr. Stephen Thompson, whose PhD is in animal ecology and behavior. The proposed location for the bridge will have a significant detrimental impact on the sanctuary and the wildlife throughout the corridor. It is important to recognize that the family's conscious decision to establish a wildlife sanctuary rather than sub-divide and develop the property was made despite the resulting huge loss in potential value.

The Bend population that strongly opposes HB 4029 is in large part spearheaded by the editor of The Bend Bulletin. People tend to believe a voice that buys ink by the barrel. The Bulletin editor paints the issue as one of wealthy landowners that want to selfishly protect their privacy without regard for the greater good. That is a gross misrepresentation by the editor whose own position is guided by his desire to conveniently access the forest service trails from his home in River Rim via a bridge at this site. He opines often and represents only his distorted position-never giving any credibility to the environmental issues at stake. Much of the testimony provided to date in opposition to this bill has been guided by The Bulletin.

Please protect our environment and our wildlife and vote yes on HB 4029. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Beverly Phillips