

From: Lisa Seales
To: [HAGNR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Please Support HB 4029
Date: Monday, February 12, 2018 9:56:38 PM

Dear members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

I strongly urge your support for House Bill 4029.

This is not a NIMBY issue, nor is it strictly a local issue. This is a state issue. It's about upholding current OAR, preserving the intent of the State Scenic Waterway Act, preventing assaults on river protections, and protecting habitat and wildlife.

This bill also is not anti-recreation. Many of the proponents of this bill are huge recreationalists, myself included. I love trails, utilize them regularly, and I do advocate for a trail connecting Bend to Sunriver. However, recreation will persist regardless of the outcome of this bill. The only question is whether we will honor existing river protections and plan trails accordingly.

Passing HB 4029 is important for a number of important reasons:

- The potential bridge could weaken river protections in State Scenic Waterways, and possibly set a dangerous precedent.
- It upholds the existing ban on new bridges over reaches of the upper Deschutes River that are designated State Scenic Waterway. The existing administrative rule - OAR 736-040-0073 - was put in place more than 20 years ago, and its intent should be upheld.
- Oregon State Parks has already undergone two public processes in the past three years that included stakeholder groups, open houses, and public meetings. These processes both resulted in recommendations to maintain river protections and not build a bridge.
- The section of the upper Deschutes River in question is important habitat for spotted frogs, bald eagles, golden eagles, elk, cougar, mule deer, owls, beaver, otters, and other species.

Please vote in favor of HB 4029.

Thank you,
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