

Dear Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:  
I am writing to urge you to vote "yes" on the HB 2027 amendment.

My family has owned property along the bank of the Deschutes River in Bend since 1999. We bought this property knowing it was in a protected, Scenic Waterway. We have been vigilant stewards of this beautiful, unique, and wild section of river that we are fortunate to be able to own. We are appalled that government entities such as OPRD and BPRD are working together to change the rules that have preserved this section of river for so many years. That they have the gall to try to force condemnation on our private property rights is so maddening, it is so against what our rights stand for. A trail already exists that allows the transport for which they desire. There is no other reason to force a trail and bridge onto our property, other than for the power and ego play that BPRD is trying to push onto it's citizens.

Current data and UDAG public hearings have been against any changes, yet they continue to try to say that change is what the public wants. It is at the wish of a few directors and board at BPRD that this proceeds.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is actively exploring abolishment of environmental rules in the Upper Deschutes Scenic Waterway. OPRD's rule abolishment would ultimately allow the Bend Park and Recreation District to construct a high-intensity bridge and trail system in this area. Disturbingly, OPRD has proceeded with this agenda against warnings from both the public and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists.

Legislative preservation of the Upper Deschutes is critical. The Upper Deschutes Scenic Waterway was consciously set aside by Oregon voters and must remain a protected area. Instead of honoring voter intent, OPRD is promoting development. This policy undermines the conservationist purpose of the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act. Further, abolishing environmental protections in Oregon scenic waterways would mark the beginning of an insidious trend. All Oregon scenic waterways are at risk. Passage of the HB 2027 amendment is vital to ensure continued protection of the Upper Deschutes Scenic Waterway and to affirm Oregon's commitment to rivers statewide.

Thank you for defending Oregon's rivers. I would be glad to offer a tour of the area that would be condemned to any committee members that would like to see first hand what is at stake.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration,

Ambrose Su and Family  
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