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From: Jan <janbakerllc@yahoo.com>
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To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: House Bill 4029

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Hello.

As a resident of Bend, Oregon living within the city limits for years, I encourage the legislature to support House Bill 4029.

I have enjoyed and supported recreation AND environmental protection efforts throughout my life. As Bend has grown, it has been disheartening to see the ramifications of development along the wild and scenic parts of the iconic Deschutes River.

We are told that surveys of residents support a bridge. While I do not question that people want easy access from the east to the west side of the river, I do not accept unilaterally that making it easier to get from one side of the river to the other is a good thing for the river. **Short term gains of "social order," as described as necessary by Bend Parks and Recreation director, Don Horton, does not trump long term environmental gains in my view.** And, the argument that the river has already been compromised with development does not justify more development.

I recently attended a presentation (unrelated to the bridge proposal) on the impact of urban development on wildlife. The presenter, Brock McCormick of USFS, had one of his slides showing a maze of uncontrolled activity on land adjacent to a very popular bicycle route, Phil's Trail on the west side of Bend. If Bend Parks and Rec cannot control that, how will it control such activity along a river trail?

I agree with Bob Brell, who served as the former chair of the Century West Neighborhood Association, that the legislation is necessary to protect the "Scenic" designation of the river. **"How can any entity (public or private) know more or be better informed or represent the public interests better than the public entity entrusted with managing our Oregon Scenic Waterways?"**

Erik Fernandez, wilderness program manager for the environmental group, [Oregon Wild](#), is also in favor of legislation, and is concerned about the possibility of lengthy legal battles if the Scenic designation isn't bolstered. He said, **"We want to have certainty that our environmental protections will be strong instead of letting it play out in the courts."**

I ask you to take a clear stand on protecting what is left of our river as well as bolstering protection of Oregon's other wild and scenic waterways.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Baker

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