

## Hamre Jaime

---

**From:** Robert Korfhage <rkorfhage46@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:55 AM  
**To:** HAGNR Exhibits  
**Subject:** House Bill 4029

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

### Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

I would like to go on record as opposing House Bill 4029. I live in River Rim, a subdivision which is in close proximity to the proposed bridge site. I **support** the proposed foot bridge across the Deschutes River, as it would provide access to the west side of the river and US Forest Service land without having to drive my vehicle through Bend to access the west side of the river. Bend is already being inundated with heavy traffic and increased air pollution generated by vehicle use. Encouraging non motorized use would significantly help Bend. As a retired Federal Land Natural Resource Manager and Wildlife Biologist, I find it appalling that those supporting this bill are suggesting unsubstantiated environment impacts to support their cause of preventing the bridge to be built. I managed the Wild and Scenic (Federal Classification) Rogue River for several years. Impacts from foot traffic to natural resource values for which the river was designated were minimal. Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, deer, elk, Bear and other wildlife continue to use the trail and riparian zone along the river. I have hiked the McKenzie River Trail and the North Umpqua River trail systems. Both are along wild and scenic rivers, have bridges, including vehicle use bridges and are used by hikers and mountain bikers. Impacts are minimal and the values for which those rivers were designated are still intact.

The proposed bridge would be in an area that would significantly improve the opportunity to enjoy the scenic river values and provide access for a substantial number of people in the southeast part of Bend. Trail systems, for the most part, are already built and being used. The only change would be the imprint of a footbridge crossing the river. I find it difficult to see that this infrastructure would detract from the river values when one considers all the other scenic intrusions along the river, i.e homes, other bridges, etc. I do believe that it is important that the design of the bridge reflect the scenic river values.

As a natural resource manager, I often had to consider what was in the best interest of the local few and the interest of a larger population of public land stockholders. In my mind, with few exceptions, the long range needs of users from a broader area usually took priority over local neighborhoods. Especially when environmental effects to the resources were minimal. I found that small local groups typically had emotional based biased thinking towards personal needs and did not best reflect the needs of a broader population.

I would hope the Oregon legislature would also look strongly at the needs of all Oregonians, especially when projected legislation appears to be targeted to benefit a distinct minority. I would also suggest the legislative body closely evaluate environmental smoke screens that suggest unsubstantiated environmental effects to the natural resources and the legislation that protects them. The wild and scenic values that are currently in place to protect the Deschutes River are not going to be jeopardized by the placement of a footbridge in the location recommended. In fact, it will significantly make the river more accessible for the public to enjoy the river qualities for which it was declared a Wild and Scenic River.

I urge members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources to toss out this piece of legislation in the best interest of all outdoor users in the State of Oregon.

Robert C. Korfhage  
Bend, Oregon

--

*Bob Korfhage*

*19488 Sugar Mill Loop  
Bend, OR 97702  
541 535 5276*