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**From:** Mark Hinkle <mark@manzama.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018 11:02 AM  
**To:** HAGNR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 4029

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To The Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

I am writing today to encourage you to please support House Bill 4029 protecting the Deschutes River. The Deschutes is currently designated as both a State Scenic Waterway and a Federal Wild and Scenic River. Proposed developments by the Bend Parks and Recreation Department ("BPRD"), including a potential bridge would require weakening of those river and public land protections. Both the public and the river need you to stand behind the protections enacted over 20 years ago.

BPRD has tried to circumvent the public process at every turn on this issue to advance an agenda for trail connectivity where trail connectivity already exists. They seem to have an insatiable appetite for continued trail development, access, and convenience at the expense of wildlife, scenic values, and protected resources. Last year, Oregon State Parks engaged in a lengthy public process to examine this issue and determined a bridge on this stretch of the upper Deschutes River would be detrimental to habitat in the river corridor that is home to myriad wildlife including spotted frogs, bald eagles, golden eagles, elk, cougar, mule deer, owls, beaver, otters and more.

If we continue development to all areas of the river corridor, it will result in a degradation of these places that the public holds dear, and is the very reason we seek out beautiful and wild places.

Please vote in favor of HB 4029.

Thank you,

Mark Hinkle  
COO & Co-Founder

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