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**From:** Michael Doram <mdoram@dslextreame.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018 11:05 AM  
**To:** HAGNR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Submitted Testimony in favor of HB 4029

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

Dear Representative Clem;

This is to express my strong support for passage of HB 4029.

The measure is essential to discourage the campaign of the Bend Parks & Recreation Department (BPRD) to overturn the Wild and Scenic status of a segment of the Deschutes river near the city of Bend.

The Chief Cheerleader for the BPRD development project, Eric Lukens, Editor of the Bend Bulletin, describes the project merely as a "footbridge" to allow Bend residents more convenient access to the National Forest on the West side of the Deschutes. Such an innocuous term grossly misdescribes the nature and scope of this project on the BPRD wish list.

Actually the project not only includes creation of a new trail along the riverbank for bike and foot traffic and a new bridge across the river, it also includes building a parking lot for an unknown variety of vehicles, widening and paving of a mile-long single lane dirt/gravel road, location of toilet facilities and other infrastructure. The adverse impact on the people in the community of Deschutes River Woods and adjacent communities is obvious and all this without evaluation of the effects upon the river, the wildlife or the ecology.

The arguments opposing HB 4029 are meritless. Bend residents already have all the access they need to the Federal forestland on the West side of the river; they can use the existing bridges by foot, bike or car. If the purpose is to enable access without the use of a car, why then does the BPRD project include widening and paving of a dirt/gravel road and building an extensive parking lot?

There is something profoundly anti-democratic about the proposal of BPRD to impose its project upon a quiet neighborhood adjacent to the city of Bend, since we have no vote in the selection of directors of the BPRD or elected officials in Bend.

Therefore your Committee is essentially our last hope to prevent this totally unnecessary encroachment by the BPRD on our community.

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