
From: Jason Eckhoff <jleckhoff@baurproperties.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 10:36 AM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: HB 4029 Support

Dear Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

I strongly encourage you to support House Bill 4029, to protect 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. Tourism and urban growth have already created too much pressure on this resource. Now more than ever, the river needs 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 that already exists. 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 spotted frogs, bald eagles, golden eagles, elk, cougar, mule deer, owls, beaver, otters and more. Increased disturbance in the river corridor would be harmful to these animals and their habitat.

Please vote in favor of HB 4029.

Thank you.

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