

Hamre Jaime

From: Brook Gardner <garbh026@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 2:11 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: HB 4029

Representatives and Committee Members -

I am a resident of Bend and happen to live in a neighborhood that is very close to where the Deschutes River Trail was "planned" to connect via a footbridge - and I oppose HB 4029.

The Deschutes River Trail, and access to it, has long been a draw for outdoor enthusiasts, myself included. The Bend Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) has done a phenomenal job assembling various segments of the river trail system over the years - and residents of Bend have shown their support for their efforts by voting in favor of various actions and bond measures.

As my fellow Bend residents have also pointed out, the footbridge / river crossing would connect two sides of town that are not particularly rural in nature (as they once were), and regardless of the bridge, there is activity by pedestrians on both sides of the river that will only increase in the years to come. In fact, one could argue that the footbridge and a trail connection might mitigate use or overuse of the river banks by designating a corridor through which pedestrians could travel.

Please let this bill die because it truly favors the interests of few while sacrificing the interests of many. The lack of connectivity from one side of the river actually increases car trips by residents (like me) who must drive several miles through increasingly congested areas of Bend to access trails.

The citizens of Bend approved funding for this trail connection, but the BPRD has run into many obstacles that have stalled this process. Please let this bill die so that this trail connection can be made a reality through the thoughtful placement of the footbridge in the near future.

Thank you,

Brook Gardner
Bend resident
February 7, 2018