



April 8, 2019

House Committee On Natural Resources  
Chair Representative Witt, Co-Vice Chairs Representative Gorsek, Representative Sprenger, Members of the Committee.  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 3378

Chair Representative Witt, Co-Vice Chairs Representative Gorsek and Representative Sprenger, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Oregon Outdoors, I write today in support of HB 3378. Oregon Outdoors ([www.oregonoutdoors.org](http://www.oregonoutdoors.org)) is a recently-established and rapidly growing coalition of more than thirty outdoor recreation businesses, recreation organizations, and conservation groups committed to the preservation of Oregon's outdoor assets for future generations.

Our coalition has established legislative priorities that members have determined fit several components of Oregon's outdoor industry that are of particular importance to the coalition and represent our collective voice and long terms interests for the future of the industry in our state. These priorities include, but are not limited to: outdoor recreation access, recreation infrastructure, economic vitality, and support for responsible recreation.

Oregon Outdoors supports HB 3378 as a critical step in addressing a major impediment to in the Columbia River Gorge. The bill will provide \$1.5 million for design and engineering to support Federal funding for a new lane for non-motorized traffic on the Bridge of the Gods. Due to the steel grate deck and the need to share the 35-foot width with auto traffic, the Bridge currently represents an obstacle for many recreationists and a safety hazard to those who do choose to make the crossing. The proposed lane will provide safe and accessible passage by pedestrians and cyclists seeking to make use of the world-class recreation assets on both sides of the Columbia River Gorge.

We appreciate the work of the Port of Cascade Locks on this project, and we are particularly grateful that the proposed lane will also accommodate equestrians. Given that that the Bridge is part of the Pacific Crest Trail, an equestrian and hiking trail, inclusion of equestrian access is an important component of the project.

One minor amendment is suggested to the bill. We recommend changing the words "biking" and "biker" to "bicycling" and "bicyclist" for the purposes of consistency and to clarify that the lane is not intended for motorized traffic (motorcyclists).

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit testimony,

Sincerely,

*Hugh Morrison*

Hugh Morrison  
Network Coordinator  
Oregon Outdoors

# Oregon Outdoors Members



outdoor project



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