

March 11, 2021

Dear Chair Whitt and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Trails Coalition is submitting this testimony in support of HB 2549.

The Oregon Trails Coalition is a coalition of broad-based, statewide partners dedicated to the preservation, development, and stewardship of a statewide network of sustainable trails that provide access to outdoor recreation and active transportation for all.

Our advisory council includes representatives from more than twenty-five federal, state, and local agencies, trail user groups, outdoor industry and tourism partners, and volunteer organizations. We represent walkers, bikers, runners, paddlers, equestrians, adaptive equipment users, skiers, snowmobilers, and motorized trail enthusiasts. We are also a proud member of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund Coalition.

Public access to water is crucial to outdoor recreation in Oregon and to providing Oregonians with opportunities to access nature, move their bodies with joy, and find precious moments of peace and well being in the outdoors.

Consistently we hear that lack of access to clear information is one of the biggest barriers to Oregonians accessing outdoor recreation opportunities on our trails, waterways, and other outdoor recreation sites, especially for those Oregonians currently underrepresented in the outdoors.

We believe HB 2549, which directs the Oregon State Marine Board to maintain publicly accessible information about waterways access sites, is an important step toward making the outdoors equally welcoming to all Oregonians.

Quoting poet and author, Gary Snyder, "Nature is not a place to visit. It is home."

We hope to see HB 2549 move forward.

Thank you for your work and leadership,

Stephanie Noll,
Oregon Trails Coalition