

March 15, 2021

Dear Chair Whitt and Members of the Committee,

I'm submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 2913 on behalf of the Oregon Trails Coalition.

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.

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) provides crucial funding for projects that connect people to the outdoors and preserve wildlife and habitat. These projects have included trail investments important to our members such as the Crooked River National Grasslands Sustainable Trails Project.

So far, more than 12,000 individuals and groups collectively have invested more than \$250,000 in the OCRF, donations that were intended by the legislature to be matched by public funds.

HB 2913 repeals abolishment of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund and appropriates moneys out of the General Fund to match the donations by Oregon residents and organizations.

We wholeheartedly support this action, and want to note that we have also shared our support for HB 2171, Outdoor Life and Recreation for All, that would take similar action for OCRF along with forwarding a number of other important measures we believe are crucial to increase access to the outdoors for all.

Thank you for your work,
Stephanie Noll,
Oregon Trails Coalition