

NATIONAL COAST TRAIL ASSOCIATION



Keeping The Coast For Everyone!
*through advocacy, education and action
for trails, public access and coastal preservation*



Oregon Coast Trail stretches south to infinity from Cape Blanco, our westernmost point!

February 15th, 2023

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon

Re: Testimony, SB 679, "Appropriates Moneys for Oregon Coast Trail"

Chair Golden and Committee Members:

The Oregon Coast Trail Action Plan bill became law essentially by unanimous vote of legislators and the governor's signature. So, in two words, "thank you." Thank you for moving the process forward with that bill to complete the Oregon Coast Trail.

SB 679, which I chose to call, the "Let's Make the Oregon Coast Trail Happen!" Bill is an easy one to pitch. Not because I hiked the whole trail twice, not because I've advocated for its completion for close to thirty years, and not because I attended almost every coastal segment team meeting over the last couple of years to listen and share input to complete the gaps . . . BUT, because . . . given legislators near unanimous support for the Action Plan bill, and that you can't make a plan happen without resources, the next most reasonable, appropriate, obvious step is to make that happen, too, that is resources like dedicated funding.



**OREGON
COAST TRAIL**

SB 679 is an opportunity to do just that, right here, right now, and just as the Oregon Coast Trail Action Plan is about to be finalized by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to someday realize the dream of a complete Oregon Coast Trail! And you, dear legislators, this is YOUR moment to keep things moving forward, because with the planning nearly done and primary agreements made, **implementation is the very next step.**

Therefore, our organization supports SB 679, and encourages everyone, just like last before, for each and EVERY legislator, to **vote yes for it!**

"Let's Make the Oregon Coast Trail Happen!"

Al LePage, Executive Director

cc: Lisa Sumption, Director, OPRD

National Coast Trail Association Board of Directors