

Submitter: William Sullivan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB679

I'm the author of the "100 Hikes" guidebooks to Oregon, so you will assume that I am strongly in favor of finishing the Oregon Coast Trail, and you will be right. But it is as a fifth-generation Oregonian and a property owner in Lincoln and Lane counties that I am submitting this testimony in support of SV 679. Over a hundred years ago Governor Oswald West set Oregon's attitude about our Coast in the right direction when he declared our beaches to be public property, open to all. The Oregon Coast Trail is the next step in proving that we will keep our beautiful Coast open to visitors and residents alike. When I see the many coastal businesses that are struggling, restaurants that have closed, motels that are empty 9 months of the year, I'm reminded of how a little state support can go a long way to help. The Oregon Coast Trail brings the right sort of tourists -- low impact, nature-oriented, respectful -- and provides long-time Oregonians with yet another reason to enjoy the Coast. Five years ago the state legislature passed a bill to "finish the Oregon Coast Trail" -- and it passed easily because it had no money attached. Now it is time to attach a little money so that we can really finish the Oregon Coast Trail.