

Submitter: Victoria SkellCerf
On Behalf Of: hikers and walkers
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB679

Testimony in Support for SB679
Oregon Coast Trail
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The Oregon Coast Trail, OCT, is an amazingly beautiful resource that exists due to the foresight of Sam Boardman, Governors Oswald West and Tom McCall, and others who followed, in creating a coastal corridor that stretches from Washington State to the California state line. Over the past decades, much work has gone into delineating the formal OCT. There is still work to be done to keep hikers from needing to walk on Highway 101 in about 40 miles of the entire trail. There is a working group that has outlined plans for closing the gaps with relatively minimal expense (as compared to building highways!) and this bill would bring needed funds to completion of the trail.

I have walked the entirety of the trail and it is gorgeous. On my walk I met numerous hikers who had had to abandon the Pacific Crest Trail due to adverse weather and fires; they were thrilled to have this beautiful alternative. But, every single person with whom I spoke, mentioned that it was difficult/unpleasant to have the stretches which required walking on the highway with the noise and safety concerns of motorized vehicles. This is a problem which we can solve!

I have also walked months long hikes in other countries and the beauty of our Oregon is right up there with well-known and supported paths. I strongly urge passage of SB679 to provide the funds to complete our beautiful Oregon Coast Trail.