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On Behalf Of: Chemeketans
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB929

Support for SB 929
Oregon Coast Trail Funding

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

February 5, 2025

I strongly urge you to support SB 929 which would provide funding necessary to maintain and close the remaining gaps on the Oregon Coast Trail.

I am a member of Salem's oldest outdoor organization, the Chemeketans, which has been an advocate for the Oregon Coast trail.

The Oregon Legislature unanimously passed HB 3149 in 2017 which called for the completion of the Oregon Coast Trail. SB 997 would be a significant boost to implementing the Oregon Coast Trail Action Plan that was completed as a result of HB 3149. Oregon is one of only three states that, by law, guarantees public access to our entire coast thanks to the Oregon Beach Bill.

The Oregon Coast Trail will attract avid hikers from not only from Oregon and the Northwest, but also from around the world. Completion of the trail will boost the stature of the Oregon Coast Trail similar to world recognized trails in Europe, New Zealand, Australia, and Japan. This major tourist attraction will realize significant economic benefits for the Oregon Coastal communities and the state because people will have the opportunity to hike from town to town, stay at hotels, dine at local restaurants, and purchase items from local merchants. It will be an incredible opportunity to view the most gorgeous coastal scenery in the world.

The Chemeketans are a not-for-profit organization founded in 1928 united in a common interest in outdoor activities. The Chemeketans have about 700 members based in Salem, Oregon. Our primary activity is day hiking but also includes many other outdoor activities and special events such as mountain climbing, cross-country ski trips, snowshoe outings, bicycle trips, canoe trips, backpacking, and helping to build and maintain trails.