Dear Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

As the President of the Oregon Trail Foundation, we would like to offer our strong support for SB 929. This bill is critical to realizing the benefits that the Oregon Coast Trail can bring to communities along the entire length of the Oregon Coast.

Without this bill the gaps in the trail will not be closed and hikers will be forced to walk on highway 101 which causes major safety concerns. Many of these gaps are not on State Parks property but need to be completed in order to connect those portions of the trail that are. In addition, small rural communities will benefit from not only economic opportunities but also an amenity that can provide them with connection to other jurisdictions and recreation opportunities.

We very much appreciate Senator Brock Smith for his leadership in making the Oregon Coast Trail a reality. The Foundation stands ready to assist in any way we can to facilitate implementation of gap solutions. Thank you very much for this opportunity to support the bill and we look forward to supporting the Committee's interest in this important project.

Sincerely,

Greg Wolf, President Oregon Coast Trail Foundation