



peopleforbikes

P.O. BOX 2359 BOULDER, CO 80306

PeopleForBikes.org | 303.449.4893

February 5, 2025

Senator Janeen Sollman and the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Room S-207, State Capitol  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: SUPPORT SB 929 (SMITH)**

Dear Senator Sollman and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

On behalf of the PeopleForBikes Coalition, we formally request your support for SB 929 and allocating \$1,000,000 from the General Fund and up to \$1,000,000 from lottery revenues biennially for the development of the Oregon Coast Trail.

The PeopleForBikes Coalition is the national advocacy group and industry association that works for better policies and infrastructure for bike riding, including public recreation trails. We strive to make bike riding a safer and more inclusive activity for everyone. Our organization works directly with federal, state, regional, and local partners, and can speak firsthand to the tremendous public desire for increasing both funding and resources for expanding and enhancing bicycle infrastructure, including trail systems, and especially for much-needed support for creating interconnections of existing trails and the communities they serve.

We support SB 929 and support funding to help develop and construct bicycle infrastructure for recreation on the Oregon Coast Trail. According to national surveys conducted by the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA), trail use is the most popular outdoor activity in the United States. The survey results hold true for Oregonians, as residents and visitors love outdoor recreation. Every year, Oregon serves an estimated 50 million daytime visitors to Oregon's state parks, consistently putting Oregon among the top 10 most visited in the nation. These visitors are more than just enjoying world-class recreation, these visitors are integral to the state's economy.<sup>1</sup> Parks and trails are instrumental in Oregon's economic output: they increase retail sales, support jobs, attract new residents and businesses, and boost property values.

Headwaters Economics found that in 2022 the economic impacts for recreation and trail use in Oregon include:

- \$16 billion in spending at businesses throughout the state, with total consumer spending on outdoor recreation in 2022 supporting 192,000 full and part-time jobs in Oregon, associated with \$8.2 billion in wages and other compensation.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2022, visitors in Oregon spent \$3.4 billion in trip-related spending, which supports 37,000 full and part-time jobs.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Oregon State Parks. "[Oregon State Parks News](#)"

<sup>2</sup> Earth Economics. "[ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IN OREGON: 2022 UPDATE.](#)"

<sup>3</sup> Earth Economics. "[ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IN OREGON: 2022 UPDATE.](#)"



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The popularity and economic engine that is the state's trail system illustrates that trail infrastructure, such as the Oregon Coast Trail needs further investment to meet demand.

Again, we request your support for SB 929, and we stand ready to work with trail advocacy networks in the state and your colleagues in the Legislature to see the funding provisions of this bill become law.

Sincerely,

Rachel Fussell  
Senior Manager of Recreation Policy  
PeopleForBikes Coalition  
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