



# PLACE INITIATIVE

PROACTIVE LEADERSHIP ADVOCATING FOR CLIMATE & EQUITY

February 6, 2025

## Support for SB 929: Oregon Coast Trail

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

PLACE Initiative works for climate action with equitable outcomes, to achieve people-centric solutions to the climate-driven challenges of our future.

We are writing today to share our support for SB 929, which allocates \$1 Million from the General Fund to further development of the Oregon Coast Trail.

In 2022-2023, Oregon Trails Coalition led a robust, statewide stakeholder engagement process, called the Oregon Signature Trails Inventory, to determine what long distance trails were most ripe for investment due to their importance to local communities and Oregonians across the state. Across all of the regional listening sessions, they heard more love for the Oregon Coast Trail vision than any other single trail. A huge amount of work has gone into planning and gap analysis for the trail in recent years, and it is critical that the state invests in moving the vision for a completed Oregon Coast Trail forward.

The \$1 Million in general funds would provide critical match funding from the state of Oregon for larger grants to address major gaps in the trail over the next biennium. While PLACE Initiative is supportive of the Oregon Coast Trail being among OPRD's priorities for allocation of lottery funding within the current agency budget, we recognize that without new funding allocated to the project, the agency needs flexibility to consider priority projects on the Oregon Coast Trail next to other parks and trail system priorities for repair, maintenance, and improvements. We would like to see the agency maintain flexibility in Section 2 of the bill to allocate existing lottery dollars for maintenance and upgrades across the system.

The modest allocation of general funds in SB 929 is critical for ensuring that all the planning work for the Oregon Coast Trail that so many individual stakeholders in coastal communities have dedicated time to, and Oregonians across the state have given their tax dollars to, doesn't just sit on a shelf while dangerous gaps in the trail persist.

Thank you for your leadership,

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