Submitter: Steven Linse

On Behalf Of: Salmonberry project

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez and member of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I am expressing my strong support for state investment in the development of the Salmonberry Trail. This transformative protect represents an unparalleled opportunity t enhance the livability, economic vitality, health, and overall well-being of communities from Washington County to the Oregon Coast, benefiting all Oregonians.

The Salmonberry Trail will repurpose existing infrastructure to create 82 contiguous miles of safe, accessible outdoor recreation space and active transportation. This project will significantly improve community connectivity, increase tourism opportunities, improve resident's individual health, strengthen social bonds, and provide a much-needed economic boost to local businesses, particularly in Tillamook County and the Oregon Coast. By investing in the Salmonberry Trail, Oregon can expand access to outdoor recreation while fostering economic resilience in historically underinvested areas.

Additionally, the Salmonberry Trail will improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, offering a dedicated pathway for school children, families, and residents who currently must navigate hazardous roadways. This investment directly supports Oregon's goals of increasing transportation safety, promoting active lifestyles, and ensuring equitable access to outdoor spaces.

The widespread enthusiasm for this project reflects its immense value to our state. As the Oregon Legislature considers funding priorities, I urge you to support state investment in the Salmonberry Trail. This an opportunity to champion sustainable infrastructure, economic development, and public health for future generations. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Oregon's future. We appreciate you consideration and look forward to working together to make the Salmonberry Trail a reality.

Sincerely,
Steven J. Linse