

**Dear Co-Chairs Liber, Sanchez, Girod, Gomberg, Smith and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,**

I am enthusiastically supportive of the state investing in the development of the Salmonberry Trail. This project leverages some of Oregon's greatest assets to contribute to our health, our economic prosperity, our recreational enjoyment, our safety and, our synergistic connection to other similar projects in the area.

It's no secret that Oregon values, and stewards its outdoor beauty and accessibility. Give someone in Oregon the chance to enjoy the outdoors and it just happens! The Salmonberry Trail project builds upon both our desire to be good stewards of our outdoor spaces as well as making them more accessible to the joyful use of all Oregonians.

While we love our outdoors, we also economically support our local businesses. This trail represents an economic boost to the tourist oriented businesses and local governments. Beyond the economic support we give by "spending locally" (City, County, State), many from out of state will likely be attracted to such a unique outdoor experience on the fully developed Salmonberry Trail.

When we consider stewarding state infrastructure dollars they should reflect the values, productivity, and well being of our citizens. The Salmonberry Trail clearly contributes to these outcomes. I understand, the challenge of competing needful spending. At first the trail may seem like a luxury, but when its decades long contribution to our region and state is considered, its value clearly rises. Once upon a time a visionary commitment to our state parks was made. All of us are regularly thankful for their vision and the ongoing commitment to this state treasure. The Salmonberry Trail is this kind of treasure.

As I just stated, this investment will have a decades long impact on our state. I see it as a "Legacy Project." Our children, our children's children and beyond will thank us for these efforts today. The Salmonberry Trail leaves a lasting testament to our environmental stewardship, our life-giving love of the outdoors, our commitment to individual well-being and local economic prosperity.

While the trail will give unique access to the backcountry, the trail also runs through our community. The trail provides bikers and pedestrians safer travel. Also to be considered are those in wheelchairs giving them unique access to the outdoors and safer travel in our community.

Finally, this project networks well with other trail efforts in the state. We in Tillamook/Netarts/Oceanside are developing our paths and multi-use trails to serve both our local community and those who visit us. I volunteer my efforts in the Oceanside Action Partnership Trails Team to develop and steward these community resources. These efforts compliment the Salmonberry Trail project providing more "trail milage" in our region.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration to our joy and care of outdoor spaces!

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sprague, PhD.  
Oceanside Action Partnership-Trails Team Leader  
Oceanside, Oregon