

Submitter: Geoff Fielder
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I am in strong support of continued state investment in the Salmonberry Trail.

We know that physical activity, access to nature, and opportunities to connect with others are key to a healthy population. The Salmonberry Trail provides all of these, serving communities across Oregon with a safe, accessible corridor for walking, biking, running, and more. The mental and physical health benefits of this kind of infrastructure are well-documented and urgently needed.

I am an avid cyclist and have experienced a few near misses with traffic on Highway 101, particularly between Rockaway and Tillamook. I prefer to ride my bike for pleasure and exercise, but I also find it convenient and fun to bike to the local markets for groceries. However, with increased traffic during the heavier tourism months, I often opt to drive to Tillamook, instead of riding to a local market in Rockaway or Garibaldi, because of the increased danger of riding on the narrow highway.

The trail will bring tangible economic benefits. Active transportation investments have been shown to increase foot traffic and support local businesses—especially in coastal areas like those in Tillamook County. The Salmonberry Trail is a smart investment in Oregon's health, economy, and long-term resilience.

Thank you for your attention and for considering this vital project.