

Submitter: Lydia Hess  
On Behalf Of: Our community  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Committee Members,

I am very supportive of this incredible opportunity for the state of Oregon. This project will be beneficial for both building eco-tourism as well as offer Oregonians an incredible experience of alternative, eco-travel through our Coastal Forest all the way to the Ocean.

Rockaway Beach and the other Tillamook County towns will be destinations for outdoor recreation enthusiasts - family-friendly recreation and most importantly - ADA accessible out-door physical activity. This opportunity will bring attention to our Town, County, region and state that is unprecedented in its reach. This economic opportunity is incredibly beneficial to an area of the state that has few other opportunities to build on other than the development of First-class Tourist attractions. This Trail would be outstanding in that way and also extremely helpful to offer alternative transportation between these coastal communities.

**Economic Development:** The trail will boost tourism and small businesses, especially in rural and coastal communities, supporting Oregon's economic recovery.

**Public Health:** The trail encourages physical activity and outdoor recreation, which are critical for improving both physical and mental health.

**Transportation Safety:** The trail offers a safe, off-road route for schoolchildren, cyclists, and pedestrians, reducing reliance on dangerous highways.

**Equity and Access:** The trail expands access to outdoor space for historically underserved and rural communities.