

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

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

I'm writing to express my strong support for state investment in the Salmonberry Trail. This project represents an exciting opportunity to create an 82-mile, safe, and accessible trail connecting the Oregon Coast and the Willamette Valley.

As someone who's bicycled numerous rails-to-trails trailways around the country, I can personally attest to these benefits:

- The Salmonberry Trail will absolutely boost tourism and small businesses, especially in rural and coastal Oregon communities: I've spent plenty of money at local businesses along trails and observed a great number of similar folks doing the same, congregating at stops and enjoying the local businesses along the way. These hubs have a nice side-effect of increasing engagement across folks that may not typically interact, strengthening communities and helping to bridge divisions.
- The Salmonberry Trail will absolutely serve to promote physical activity and outdoor recreation for everyone: I've seen users of all types on similar trails reaping the benefits of getting outside and experiencing the rewards from moving their bodies in nature in spaces that are safe from fast-moving cars and trucks. The sweat, the pride and the smiles on faces young and old alike found enjoying these trails all give powerful testimony to that.
- The Salmonberry Trail will absolutely be another success story in repurposing an existing but unused rail corridor to create a long-lasting, low-impact transportation and recreation infrastructure: Financially and environmentally, these rails-to-trails projects are sustainable ways to get great value out of abandoned corridors/spaces and to create safe alternate routes to destinations like Oregon's amazing coast, removing some traffic from the roadways to these destinations and reducing the dangers and conflicts from mixed road users on these roadways.

I have put my money where my mouth is on this, having made significant contributions to the Salmonberry Trail project, and am very excited about the future of the Salmonberry Trail. Please join me in helping make that future a reality.

Sincerely,

Frank Charron
Portland, OR