

Submitter: Mike Matthews

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

I'm writing 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.

The trail also brings tangible economic benefits. Active transportation investments have been shown to increase foot traffic and support local businesses—especially in rural and coastal areas. 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.

Mike Matthews