

**Testimony of Ann Hanus
In Support of Funding Trails in HB 2025
On Behalf of the Salem Chemeketans**

Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment

June 11, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Gorsek and Representative McLain and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment:

I urge your support to amend HB 2025 to direct a small portion of new revenue in the package for off-street trails via the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund. This new revenue would boost the Oregon Community Paths program which funds grants for project development, construction, reconstruction, major resurfacing and other improvements necessary for access and safety. The Oregon Community Paths program is used to fund the off-street portions of Safe Routes to School projects as well as access to parks, transit centers, and alternatives to high-speed roadways.

I am testifying on behalf of the Chemeketans, the largest and oldest outdoor recreation group in Salem, Oregon, with about 700 members. Our group includes avid hikers, climbers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Funding for trails is important for the following reasons:

- More than 80% of Oregonians use local trails or off-street paths.
- Off-street paths significantly improve safety and protect pedestrians and cyclists and especially children.
- Rural communities are impacted because off-street paths may be the only safe alternative to highways and provide means to access schools, shopping and medical care.
- The Oregon Community Paths program will leverage matching federal dollars thereby magnifying the impact and stretching state funding even further.

The Oregon Community Paths program is very popular and was oversubscribed by more than 4:1 in its first two funding cycles.

I urge your support to boost funding to trails which are essential for our overall transportation system.

Sincerely,

Ann Hanus

