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March 25, 2013

Oregon Legislature
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
900 Court Street NE, Rm. 453
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 756

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for considering SB 756, which allows Department of Transportation to accept donations to State Parks and Recreation Department Fund for purpose of improving bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The Bicycle Transportation Alliance supports SB 756. This bill is a common sense approach to allow people to choose to support new and improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities in our state parks.

We know that recreational trail use can be a significant driver of rural economic development. When people travel to Oregon, or tour within Oregon to ride bikes, they also spend money. After a 20 or 40-mile bike ride they're likely to get hungry and tired. That means frequent stops at local restaurants and hotels.

In addition to the positive economic impact, we currently have bold goals across the state for building new trails and paths but not enough funding to ensure that these great projects get built. A voluntary contribution at the point of vehicle registration, though not likely to make up the entire gap, will help increase funding for these projects.

In closing, this new voluntary program seems like a zero-cost way to improve coordination between ODOT and OPRD and capitalize on people's desire for new and improved trails across the state.

Sincerely,



Gerik Kransky
Advocacy Director

