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To: Members of the Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: February 6, 2014

RE: Senate Bill 1516

Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the more than 20,000 members and supporters of the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club, I would like to submit the following written testimony on Senate Bill 1516.

The Sierra Club is pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for SB 1516 as drafted and we urge this committee to do the same. As an organization with a long history of working to protect and restore Oregon's state forests, we believe the creation of a Salmonberry Trail would be an excellent addition to our state's recreation portfolio, as well as a potential economic engine for Northwest Oregon. As such, we fully support the idea of Oregon Parks and Recreation and the Oregon Department of Forestry creating a plan for the construction of that trail and reporting back to the Oregon Legislature. Indeed, as a member of the North Coast State Forest Coalition, we and our coalition partners would welcome the opportunity to assist the state agencies and other interested parties in creating that plan for a Salmonberry Trail.

The Sierra Club thanks you for your attention to this very important matter and we urge you to support Senate Bill 1516 and the development of the Salmonberry Trail.