

618
NORTHWEST
GLISAN
SUITE 401
PORTLAND
OREGON
97209
BTAOREGON.ORG
T503
226
0676
F503
226
0498

February 3, 2014

Senate Committee On Rural Communities and Economic Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301
c/o Beth Patrino, Committee Administrator

Re: SB 1516 and The Salmonberry Trail

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to share The Bicycle Transportation Alliance's strong support for SB 1516. Our mission is to create healthy, sustainable communities by making bicycling safe, convenient and accessible.

This bill allows Oregon to plan a visionary new trail through the northwest portion of the state, between a major metropolitan area and the coast. Also, it creates a new fund for future allocations to continue the planning and design work and eventually construction. As a part of our Blueprint for World Class Bicycling we identified a strong need for a regional tourism destination trail connecting Mt. Hood to the Oregon Coast.

This new trail, the Salmonberry, will attract tourists and Oregonians who ride bikes by providing a safe place to ride and walk through the Coast Range and forests. SB 1516 takes the first step, asking for a new plan and an empty fund.

We hope you will vote yes on this bill. Please allow the Salmonberry Corridor Coalition, including Oregon Parks and Recreation and the Oregon Department of Forestry, to continue their important work of building consensus and planning a new visionary trail.

Sincerely,

