



May 20, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: Eric Wold, Natural Areas and Urban Forestry Manager, City of Eugene

**Subject: Opposition to House Bill 3367**

On behalf of City of Eugene, I am writing to express opposition to House Bill 3367, which would negatively affect the ability of park and recreation agencies and other organizations to develop recreational trails in exclusive farm use (EFU) zones. Current state practice is that the establishment of recreational trails is an outright allowable use of EFU zoned land. The City of Eugene opposes changing recreational trails to a conditional use in EFU zones for the following reasons:

- **The current practice of recreational trails as an allowable use has supported the creation of many hundreds of miles of trails in EFU lands, which have provided significant health and recreational benefit to the greater public in Oregon and strong economic benefit to communities in which these trails have been located.**
- To change the system now simply adds an unnecessarily burdensome approval layer to a process that has worked well for decades and already includes opportunity for public input.
- Public recreational trail development already is subject to public input and review as defined by local jurisdictions' planning and approval processes. This bill imposes an additional and duplicative public review process.

Furthermore, **HB 3367 is quite likely to threaten trail linkages between and among communities that are widely supported by the public and elected officials.** For example, in the greater Eugene-Springfield area, the City of Eugene, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, and other partner organizations have been working since 2003 to implement a regional *Rivers to Ridges Vision* of habitat and trail connections across jurisdictional boundaries. Similarly, the central Oregon communities of Bend, Prineville, Redmond, and Sisters are working collaboratively to establish a regional trail linking each community. **Trail projects such as these are among the most desired recreational assets desired by residents throughout Oregon, and they would be significantly hindered if HB 3367 is approved.**

For these reasons, I encourage you to vote against House Bill 3367. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric N. Wold".

Eric N. Wold

Natural Areas and Urban Forestry Manager