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May 20, 2015

The Honorable Chris Edwards, Chair  
Senate Committee  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE, S-411  
Salem, OR 97301

**Sent via E-Mail**

The Honorable Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE, H-425  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for HB 3367 – Rails to Trails Legislation**

Dear Chair Edwards and Vice-Chair Olsen:

Please be advised the Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) supports the original version of HB 3367, which requires bike paths in farm zones to be subject to the county land use permitting process, providing local farmers and ranchers the opportunity to raise concerns about the impacts of the bike paths to their farm operations.

HB 3367 was introduced as a result of confusion regarding DLCD's current rules and whether or not a county permit is required to construct bike paths in farm zones. DLCD recently clarified the bill is codifying existing law and is consistent with their interpretation of the statute and their rules. Metro does not wish for bike paths to go through the county land use process, and will likely seek an amendment to allow the siting of bike paths "outright" in farm zones, with the only exception being when the land for the path is being acquired by condemnation. Obviously, that type of amendment would be contrary to existing law, and the intent of the bill. Therefore, the OCA would not be in support.

The initial conversations lacked input from the affected ranchers who believed their very livelihood to be in jeopardy if the public traveled through their active operations around livestock and heavy machinery.

The OCA has just over 1700 members that are a part of the Oregon cattle industry, they need to be protected rather than exposed to trespass, trash and vandalism from uninvited persons who want to recreate near active ranching operations.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association urges support of the original version of HB 3367 to ensure that ranchers have a voice in the process of bike path project sitings which may have very real unintentional safety hazards and economic consequences.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Jerome Rosa, Executive Director  
OREGON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Cc: The Honorable Michael Dembrow  
The Honorable Floyd Prozanski  
The Honorable Chuck Thomsen

~ Voice of the Oregon Cattle Industry Since 1913 ~

