



03/06/17

Representative David Brock Smith
900 Court Street N.E., H379
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Oregon Coast Trail

Dear Representative Smith,

We are often asked by our stakeholders to support efforts which invest in our coastal tourism economy; and, we do when a proposition is compelling enough for us to weigh in on. In this case, it is my great pleasure to strongly recommend support for the Oregon Coast Trail.

The Oregon Coast Visitor's Association is the official Regional Destination Management Organization for the Oregon Coast, as designated by Travel Oregon and the Oregon Tourism Commission. We support efforts which invest in our coastal tourism economy along all 363 miles of the Oregon Coast by representing the interests of our private industry, non-profit sector and government agency stakeholders. We believe the more recreational opportunities we are able offer visitors, the longer visitors will stay and the greater the economic benefits will be for our coastal region.

Research shows that visitors are attracted to the Oregon Coast because of its raw natural beauty and for the chance to get close to the wildlife which inhabits it. Travel Oregon calls this profile "The Active Adventurer," which they target in their marketing regime. Much of the growth in this arena is non-motorized exploration via hiking, kayaking, biking, etc. Travelers desire a genuine natural experience, increasingly prefer to tread with a light footprint and, at the same time, want convenient access to natural areas for these recreational purposes.

We anticipate that the OCT will attract avid hikers from not only entire Pacific Northwest, but also from our international target markets of China, Canada and Germany. Considering the trail is roughly 382 miles long, it is very likely international travels will hike the trail in segments, returning multiple times to complete the entire trail. We know that international travels spend disproportionately more while traveling than domestic travelers.

OREGON COAST VISITORS ASSOCIATION

po box 940 ~ 2200 1st St #490 tillamook, oregon 97141 p 541 574 2679 ~ 888 628 2101 ~ c 541 264 0543

Completion of the trail will allow hikers to walk from town to town for lodging, dining, hiking supplies and other recreational activities, similar to world-recognized trails in Europe, New Zealand, and Japan. This major tourist attraction will realize significant economic gains for the Oregon Coastal communities and the state.

We also understand the growing mountain bike craze and view investment in high quality trail development as paramount to attracting those types of visitors to our area. A relevant example of the economic impact related to this travel trend is a recently released study entitled: The Economic Significance of Bicycle-Related Travel in Oregon: 2012, Dean Runyan Associates [http://www.deanrunyan.com/doc_library/bicycletravel.pdf]. The report states, "Travelers who participated in bicycle - related activities while traveling in Oregon spent nearly \$400 million in 2012 – representing about 4.4 percent of the direct travel spending in the state (see Oregon Travel Impacts, 1991-2012p)." There is room to grow this market, but only if there exists quality opportunities for cyclists to participate, which leads me to my final point of support.

Thanks you for your leadership and support in sponsoring legislation to develop a plan for completing the Oregon Coast Trail. We support that legislation. Most of the trail along 367 miles of the Oregon Coast already exists. The remaining gaps, which require hikers to walk along the shoulder of US Highway 101, amount to just 57 miles. It would truly be a fitting tribute to mark this year's 50th anniversary of Oregon's Beach Bill and the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Recreation Trails System Act. HB 3149 is the first big step toward completing the trail through the development of an action plan to ensure this wonderful trail is both scenic and safe.

Our association sees great value in the further development of the Oregon Coast Trail to help make it the world-class destination trail experience that it can be. Only then will the extent of economic linkages resulting from the trail be fully realized.

Sincerely,

Marcus Hinz
Executive Director

THE PEOPLE'S COAST

MARCUS HINZ

executive director

OREGON COAST VISITORS ASSOCIATION

Director@ThePeoplesCoast.com

OREGON COAST VISITORS ASSOCIATION

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Rep. Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
[900 Court Street NE, H-478](#)
[Salem, OR 97301](#)

Dear Rep. Clem-

I encourage you to do all you can in support of HB 3149 which would identify the steps needed to complete the Oregon CoastTrail. I've hiked much of it myself in the past few years. With improvements, it could be as important as the Appalachian Trail.

I am appreciative of all your work on behalf of this Oregon treasure. Thank you.

Joan Campf
SW Portland

**Christine Carlson
2430 SE Harrison Street
Portland, Or 97214**

To Chairman Brain Clem and Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

By introduction, I am an individual with a specific interest in the Oregon Coast Trail (OCT). I have hiked significant portions of the trail, and recognize its potential as a world-class hike that could enhance local economic development by promoting eco-tourism.

The Oregon Coast Trail is the only trail in the country to span an entire coastline. It begins at the Columbia River in Fort Stevens State Park and ends, some 375 miles later, at the California border just beyond Crissey Field State Recreation Site. About half of the trail is walked on Oregon's public beaches, while other segments traverse scenic headlands and capes. The trail also travels through coastal communities where hikers can enjoy a meal or arrange for lodging.

The first segment of the OCT was dedicated in 1975, but, even after 40 years, it remains a work in progress. Significant sections of the route are not yet linked by trail, which requires hikers to walk along the shoulder of US Highway 101. For obvious reasons, this arrangement is neither scenic nor safe.

That is why I support the passage of HB 3149, a bill to develop an action plan for completion of the OCT. Finding solutions to the gaps will not be insurmountable, but it will take a cooperative effort among various stakeholder groups, state agencies, local jurisdictions and businesses, and recreation advocates. I urge your support of this bill which can be an important boon to the economies of Oregon's coastal communities.

Sincerely,
Christine Carlson

Rep. Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
[900 Court Street NE, H-478](#)
[Salem, OR 97301](#)

Dear Representative Clem,

Here in Nehalem, on the North Coast of Oregon, we are excited about the possibilities of the passing of Oregon House Bill 3149, which would require an action plan to identify steps necessary to complete the beloved Oregon Coast Trail (OCT).

As an active participant in the Northwest Coast Trails Coalition - Clatsop/Tillamook, I understand the importance of completing the project so we can begin to promote it as one of Oregon's elite recreational opportunities. You must know that it plays a vital role through our 7 coastal counties and will enhance the user experience for locals and tourists; our international tourists are especially interested in these contiguous trail experiences the OCT can offer.

Additionally, this premier State and local asset will connect the entire Oregon Coast physically; it will drive recreational tourism up; the economic development opportunities are endless, and it will be a natural 'connector' to the highly supported Salmonberry Trail.

Please support this obvious opportunity that Oregon holds in the Oregon Coast Trail, and let's work together to get it completed and promoted.

Thank you for your support,

Julie Chick, Weekly User of the Oregon Coast Trail
Nehalem, Tillamook County
Julie Chick • Nehalem Bay Creative
Project Development & Design
503-739-2240

March 17, 2017
Rep. Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE, H-478
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Clem:

I am writing to voice my support for HB 3149, state legislation that would require an action plan to identify steps necessary to complete the Oregon Coast Trail. I have lived in Oregon for four years, returning after 25 years out of state. Since being back, I have had the opportunity to hike sections of the Oregon Coast Trail and have been astounded at the beauty and potential for a continuous long-distance coastal hike in our state. In addition, I feel strongly that this trail is not only a national treasure but a local one as well. Working on environmental and economic development issues my whole life, I am an advocate of conservation that benefits local communities. Coastal towns in Oregon are poised to support the hikers and visitors that will be associated with a complete trail. With national and international interest in long-distance hiking, notoriety is already growing. Communities can be important partners and beneficiaries. Local youth groups can help maintain and build trails; tourism dollars create jobs.

The completion of the Oregon Coast Trail is a clear win-win for our state and its residents.

Please support HB 3149 and do all you can to pass this legislation.

Thank you,

Suzanne Easton
Portland, Oregon

Rep. Brain Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
[900 Court Street NE, H-478](#)
[Salem, OR 97301](#)

Dear Rep. Clem:

I am writing in support of HB 3149. I have lived in Oregon for forty-five years and have always loved the Oregon Coast. It is only in the last ten years that I have hiked on the Oregon Coast Trail and grown to fully appreciate what a marvelous resource this is for Oregon and the world. My hikes have included many of the "incompleted" sections of the trail which has necessitated walking along dangerous stretches of Hwy 1. This beautiful jewel of Oregon deserves our support and monetary commitment to keep it accessible to residents and tourists alike.

Sincerely,
[Bonnie Folick](#)
[Milwaukie, OR 97222](#)

Rep. Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dear Rep. Clem -

I am writing in support of HB 3149, which would require an action plan to identify steps necessary to complete the Oregon Coast Trail.

My name is Frank Harris and I live in San Francisco, CA. Though I am not an Oregon resident, I have a couple of dozen friends in Portland and Eugene and visit them generally twice a year, including several days attending plays and dining in Ashland and relaxing at the beach.

My trips usually include a hike along Oregon's fine hiking trails. I have spent days walking with Connie Soper along the Oregon Coast Trail in her effort to map and bring attention to the need to complete this noble undertaking. This trail still has missing, unmarked, or confusing segments which detract from the pleasure of coastal recreation.

Please support HB 3149.

Thank you,
Frank Harris
[3 Macedonia St](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94110](#)

March 17, 2017

Representative Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE, H-478
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Clem:

I am writing to voice my support for HB 3149, state legislation that would require an action plan to identify the steps necessary to complete the Oregon Coast Trail. I was born in Oregon and have a life-long affinity for both hiking and for the Oregon Coast. In 2016, I was able to hike the Pacific Crest Trail with my children from Mexico to the Oregon border. In previous years I have hiked much of the Oregon Pacific Crest Trail. I would like to do the same for the Oregon Coast Trail, but sadly the trail is not complete.

I am thrilled with the notion that there might be new and fresh energy around the Oregon Coast Trail. My enthusiasm comes from several places. Of course long trails are where new enthusiasm is being evidenced by both baby boomers and millennials alike who might have grown up at established campgrounds, but are now seeking a broader adventure. Long trail hiking is experiencing growth like never before. But even more importantly, the Oregon Coast is a world-class resource for ecotourism and businesses along the coast have experienced great economic challenges since the Great Recession. Revitalizing and completing the Oregon Coast Trail with appropriate publicity could be a great boon to tourism along the entire Oregon Coast and create jobs and dollars that support our local, rural economies.

I have had the opportunity to hike sections of the Oregon Coast Trail and have been amazed that this continuous long-distance coastal hike trail was not completed decades ago. It is an obvious winner in a state hungry for outdoor opportunities. In addition, I feel strongly that this trail is not only a national treasure but a local one as well. With national and international interest in long-distance hiking, notoriety is already growing. Communities can be important partners and beneficiaries. Local youth and volunteer groups might help maintain and build trails; tourism dollars create jobs.

The completion of the Oregon Coast Trail is a clear win-win for our state and its residents. Support HB 3149 and do all you can to pass this important legislation.

Thank you,

John Hoffnagle
Portland, Oregon
jhoffnaglenapa@gmail.com
[\(503\) 313-6951](tel:(503)313-6951)

March 16, 2017

Rep. Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE, H-478
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Clem,

This letter is in support of Oregon's HB 3149, and to encourage completion of the Oregon Coast Trail. Please use my comments, as appropriate, at the March 21 hearing.

I am not an Oregon resident, but I do enjoy spending leisure time (and money) on visits to Oregon, especially the beautiful and remarkably accessible coast. My visits, typically one to three each year, have ranged from Astoria to Brookings. Hiking on the Oregon Coast Trail is always included—in fact, it's usually the main attraction.

During my visits, I've cumulatively hiked maybe two-thirds of the Oregon Coast Trail, and stayed in various coast communities. While figuring out where to find the trail, or how to fill a gap, has sometimes been a fun challenge, I look forward to the day when the Trail is formally completed and well-signed, so that even the most casual hikers will not hesitate to head out and explore the natural beauty that is Oregon's Coast.

Adena Kershner
262 Joost Ave
San Francisco CA 94131

akershner402@gmail.com

Dear Representative Clem,

I am writing you to advocate for completion of the Oregon Coast Trail. Generally speaking, it showcases the most beautiful parts of Oregon, namely miles and miles of our rugged and tranquil coastline. It's difficult for us natives to appreciate it, but most other states just do not have these enviable features! However, I have hiked various sections of the Trail and run into gaps that interrupt its scenic quality and could not be called a "trail". Its completion can be a great marketing tool for the State of Oregon to attract outdoor tourism, much as the Appalachian Trail attracts tourists from all over the U.S. to the states along its route on the eastern seaboard. The joy of accessible outdoor life is what so many people come to Oregon for! Please give bill HB3149 a positive boost when it comes up next week.

Let's get this treasure completed and start bragging!

Mollie Peters

503-679-8082

9175 SW Monterey Place

Portland OR 97225



Manzanita Visitors Center

31 Laneda Avenue
Manzanita, Oregon 97130 503-812-5510

Dan Haag

Visitor Center Manager
info@exploremanzanita.com

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Representative Brian Clem
900 Court Street N.E., H478
Salem, OR 97301

Support for the Oregon Coast Trail

Manzanita Visitors Center supports legislation under consideration by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to develop a plan for completing the Oregon Coast Trail. Most of the trail along 367 miles of the Oregon Coast already exists. The remaining gaps, which require hikers to walk along the shoulder of US Highway 101, amount to just 57 miles. It would truly be a fitting tribute to mark this year's 50th anniversary of Oregon's Beach Bill and the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Recreation Trails System Act. HB 3149 is the first big step toward completing the trail through the development of an action plan to ensure this wonderful trail is both scenic and safe.

The Oregon Coast Trail will attract avid hikers from not only Oregon and the Northwest, but also from around the world. Completion of the trail will allow hikers to walk from town to town, similar to world-recognized trails in Europe, New Zealand, and Japan. This major tourist attraction will realize significant economic gains for the Oregon Coastal communities and the state.

The Manzanita Visitors Center operates with a rotating group of local volunteers. Our mission is to provide current and useful travel and event information to visitors who stay in and around Manzanita, Nehalem, and Wheeler.

Travelers are rapidly recognizing our area as an outdoor recreation destination. With that in mind, hiking trail information has far and away become the most requested item from these visitors. These inquiries take many forms: trail distances, current weather conditions for hiking, scenery, wildlife viewing opportunities, and family accessibility are just a few. Whether it is novice hikers or hikers with years of experience, they are all coming to his area to hit the trails.

We take the safety of our visitors seriously. While the Oregon Coast Trail technically runs from Oswald West State Park to Manzanita, there is no dedicated trail in between the two points. In its current form, the OCT funnels hikers along the shoulder of Highway 101. In the best of times, walking Highway 101 is a risky proposition; in the summer months, it is downright dangerous. A trail closing that gap would allow OCT hikers – as well as casual hikers – the opportunity to experience the area without fear of motor vehicles. Conversely, it would take the stress off of drivers who currently must share the stretch with pedestrians.

From an economic standpoint, the project would be a win-win. Connecting Manzanita with Oswald West State Park would bring hikers into town where they can grab a bite to eat, a cup of coffee, or find a place to stay in one of lovely hotels, vacation homes, or Nehalem Bay State Park. Hikers will be able to flow into and through town without having to use a car. It would further enhance our area's reputation as a welcoming outdoor destination.

With all of the positive impacts projected from this project, I can unreservedly support this project and encourage others to do so as well.

Best regards,

Daniel A. Haag
Manzanita Visitors Center

Dear Rep Brian Clem,

I am writing to support the House bill requiring an action plan for the Oregon Coast Trail completion. I have personally walked the entire trail, with the exception of the dangerous highway gaps and as an Oregonian I know that our coastline is an amazing treasure worthy of preservation and improvement.. Completing the gaps , which detract from the scenic wonder and endanger hikers determined to complete every mile, will enrich trail enthusiasts experiences as well boost tourism in the coastal communities adjacent to the trail.

I sincerely hope that your committee will do everything possible to promote this bill.

Sincerely,

Joy Rhodes

[5630 SW Riverside Lane Apt 22](#)

[Portland OR 97239](#)

March 15, 2017
619 SW Hume St
Portland, OR 97219

Rep Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE, H-478
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: HB 3149 trail fund and development of plan

Dear Rep. Brian Clem and Members of the Committee.

I am writing in support of HB 3149. I am a native Oregonian, a property owner and avid hiker. HB 3149 provides Oregon the opportunity to complete the Oregon Coast Trail by making it truly accessible, designated with navigational signs and improved to ensure hikers safety.

I support HB 3149 for the following reasons, and I am sure there are more:

- The Oregon Coast Trail provides a unique opportunity to experience the Oregon beach, woodlands, headlands, rock jetties, fishing towns, inlets, marinas and more.
- Completing the Oregon Coast Trail will add another Oregon tourist hotspot, on par with Mt Hood, the Columbia River Gorge, Crater Lake, and Multnomah Falls.
- Completing the Coast Trail, I believe, will be as attractive to international hikers as the Pacific Crest Trail, El Camino in Spain, trekking in Nepal, walking the Amalfi Coastline.

I have hiked 80% of the Trail, and some sections several times. The Trail is generally designated, but is difficult to navigate and requires a good topographical map, GPS and willingness to hike on some treacherous sections of Highway 101.

- Support of this bill will mandate to the Oregon Parks Department to develop a strategic plan for completing this Trail and establish a Trail Fund.
- Completing the Coast Trail does not require acquisition or encroachment on private land.

This bill is a win win for the Legislators, Oregonians, Tourists and Businesses. I urge your support of HB 3149.

Suellen Rinker

Hello my friends, Phil Barnhart and Paul Holvey –

Yes, it's me, Bill Sullivan, the author of all those hiking guidebooks. I've been a big supporter of yours for years, and now I'd like to ask you to support the Oregon Coast Trail.

HB 3149 will cost Oregon almost zero, but it will collect millions in donations to support the completion of the Oregon Coast Trail. As a guidebook author, I can guarantee you that this trail, if it is reasonably completed, will attract tourists from around the world. Much of the missing trail work is in Lane County. It can be completed on existing highway rights-of-way without buying or impacting any private land.

There is no down side to HB 3149. When it passes, we will be able to promote Oregon's Coast to a worldwide audience. These will not be Pacific Crest Trail hikers who cache their own supplies at trailheads. These will be village-to-village tourists who stay at motels and eat at Mo's.

Jump at this opportunity to promote Oregon's tourism!

I am a fifth-generation Oregonian, but I am not hesitant to endorse this route along the coast as a tourist destination. For much of the year, the motels and restaurants in this area struggle to survive. I think the area is vastly underused and underrated. I would not support sending tourists there if I didn't think the area would benefit from it, could handle it, and would be better for it.

Thank you for helping to complete the Oregon Coast Trail.

Best, Bill

Rep. Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE, H-478
Salem, OR 97301

Hello Representative Clem,

I am writing you to urge the passage of HB 3149, the Oregon Coast Trail action plan bill, which would identify the steps necessary to complete the Oregon Coast Trail. I am a native of Oregon, having been born in Coos Bay, and I have enjoyed visiting and vacationing along the Oregon Coast my entire life. The Oregon Coast has a well-deserved and special reputation nationally, and its many parks and trail segments are a great draw for tourists and visitors. Even though I now live out of state, I still make regular trips to the Oregon Coast to enjoy the scenery and natural resources it has to offer. Developing a plan to determine how an entire trail along the coast could best be completed is the right thing to do, and would prove to be a valuable tool for advocates, public agencies, and supporters of the Oregon Coast Trail in the future. Please support the passage of HB 3149. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Curt Soper
2218 N Baker Avenue
Wenatchee, Washington 98802

Rep. Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
[900 Court Street NE, H-478](#)
[Salem, OR 97301](#)

Dear Rep. Clem-

I am writing you in support of HB 3149, which would identify the steps needed to complete the Oregon Coast Trail. I'm an avid hiker, and the coast trail is one of my favorite places to hike. But it needs to be completed, in order to be a major hiking destination. We are fortunate to have such a unique trail in our state. But it must be completed in order to become a major Oregon tourist draw. Help make it happen!

Thanks for your support.

Jane Comerford
[4324 SW Shattuck Rd](#)
[Portland 97221](#)