

## **Testimony on HB 3149 – The Oregon Coast Trail**

I have hiked on many European hiking trails going from inn to inn or as the joke goes "from pub to pub". Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland have done a great job developing these trails that cater to people who like to walk, and there are a lot of people around the globe who like to walk on their vacations. We met people from all over the planet eager to find trails to hike from inn to inn because that is what they like to do, just like my wife and I. There are no such trails in the USA so all these international hikers must go primarily to Europe and hike. The Oregon Coast Trail would be the first real inn to inn hike that rivals any of the European hikes. We all know that the Oregon Coast is one of the most beautiful coastlines on the Planet Earth and thus would be a great place for people to come and hike. As an economic benefit to the coast it is a no-brainer. People walking from town to town staying at B&Bs or motels or inns is obviously going to help the economies of the towns. This is eco-tourism at it's best. So, I would strongly recommend that the State of Oregon find a way to complete this trail so people do not have to walk on Rte. 101 which is a major drawback for this trail. Any money spent by the state will come back many times. Politically this is a win-win for all involved!

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