



City of Brookings

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Hon. David Brock Smith
State Representative
900 Court Street NE H-379
Salem, OR 97301

March 28, 2017

Dear Representative Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3375 which would provide funding for infrastructure projects that would support tourism development and sustainability on the Oregon Coast.

The City of Brookings has developed the following visitor service infrastructure project list. We believe that many of these are consistent with the vision included in the *Regional Cooperative Tourism Program Menu of Investment Opportunities* for 2017-19 as adopted by Travel Oregon.

- Improvements to City-owned property adjacent to Social Security Bar on the Chetco River. Improvements would include a restroom, paved parking, campground and day-use facilities. This is a riverbank fishing location that is close-in to Brookings.
- Harris Beach State Park expansion. Conversion of the former visitor center at Harris Beach State Park to a group campground was proposed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in 2003. However, there have never been sufficient State funds available to undertake this project. Harris Beach State Park is the largest generator of visitor activities in Curry County and the campground is often filled to capacity during the entire visitor season. A larger campground would welcome more visitors.
- Access improvements to the City-owned Chetco Point Park. This is a spectacular ocean front peninsula park that could be enjoyed by more visitors by improving the park trail, installing a restroom and improving parking. *The City has just received a private bequest of \$200,000 for trail improvements.*
- Redevelop sports fields at Azalea and Bud Cross Parks as “all weather” fields to accommodate year-round tournaments. The City has hosted the adult Slippery Banana Softball Tournament for several years. This event brings more than 500

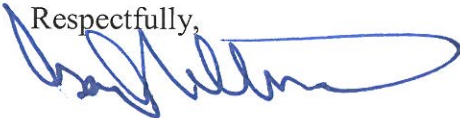
visitors (players, family and friends) to Brookings for three days. Additional tournaments could be attracted if field conditions were improved.

And, finally, a project that would address several community needs is the rehabilitation of the Ferry Creek Reservoir. The Ferry Creek Reservoir was constructed in 1915. The reservoir dam is in need of major rehabilitation or replacement. The reservoir was originally a part of the community water system. The current use of the reservoir is for Salmon acclimation. We envision a project at this location that would combine the elements of tourism, resiliency, fire protection and sustaining the fishery by:

- Rehabilitating or replacing the dam, resolving a safety issue.
- Developing the shoreline for recreational use, including fishing, hiking and family day use.
 - The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has indicated that they would stock the lake with trout, making this the only lake fishing opportunity in the area.
- Fish Acclimation. ODFW also advises they would expand their existing fish acclimation program...which acclimates Salmon to the Ferry Creek reach of the Chetco River, thereby expanding the fishery...if the reservoir was stabilized.
- The reservoir has a current storage capacity of 12 million gallons of water. The City has proposed putting the reservoir back into service as a potable water source and storage system to added periodic water shortages and the salt water intrusion issue in the community of Harbor.
- The water storage would be available for fighting wildfires.

We hope that this information will assist you in demonstrating how the funding proposed in HB 3375 could be used to benefit not only tourism development, but also community resiliency along the Oregon Coast. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,



Cc: Mayor and City Council
Oregon Coast Visitors Association