

Testimony in Support of HB 3149

Oregon Coast Trail

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I'm testifying on behalf of the Chemeketans, the oldest outdoor club in Salem. We have around 700 members and are hikers, climbers, cross country skiers, and canoe/kayakers.

We strongly support HB 3149.

The Oregon Coast ranks high as one of our state's crown jewels. Oregon is one of only three states that, by law, guarantees public access to our entire coast thanks to the Oregon Beach Bill, and the vision set forth by Governors Oswald West and Tom McCall.

We can honor the legacy of the Oregon Beach Bill on its 50th anniversary and extend this vision by completing the Oregon Coast Trail. It will offer an incredible opportunity to hike along the most gorgeous coastal scenery in the world

The Oregon Coast Trail will benefit not only avid hikers like myself, but will also attract tourists from around the world. This is different than the Pacific Crest Trail because people will have the opportunity to hike from town to town, stay at hotels, dine at local restaurants, and purchase items in stores. Speaking as a former state economist, completion of the trail will provide a huge economic boost to our coastal communities..

In summary, you have a rare opportunity to set in motion a legacy that will benefit many generations of Oregonians by supporting HB 3149.