



April 8, 2019

Oregon House Committee on Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Testimony in Support of HB 3378

Dear Representatives:

The Oregon Trails Coalition is a coalition of broad-based, statewide trail interests dedicated to supporting, promoting, and advocating for the preservation, development, and stewardship of a statewide network of sustainable, world class trails that provide access to outdoor recreation and active transportation for all.

Our advisory board includes representatives from more than twenty-five federal, state, and local agencies, trail user groups, outdoor industry partners, and volunteer organizations.

We request your support for a \$1,500,000 appropriation from the general fund for design and engineering work to add a bike, pedestrian, and equestrian lane to the Bridge of the Gods.

As trail users, land managers, and people who care about the health and safety of Oregonians and the vitality of Oregon communities, we believe this investment is both critical and timely for the reasons enumerated in the bill:

- The Bridge of the Gods is a key regional transportation link in north central Oregon and the Columbia River Gorge; and
- The seismic resiliency of the bridge is critical to the transportation infrastructure of the region; and
- Hiking and biking are key components of the recreation-based economy in the region;
- The State of Oregon and the federal government are investing significant resources in expanding biking opportunities in the Columbia River Gorge; and
- The Pacific Crest Trail crosses the Columbia River on the Bridge of the Gods, and in 2018 over 7,000 hikers used the bridge crossing; and
- Hikers and bikers must share the narrow 1926 bridge with vehicular traffic; and there is currently no way for equestrians using the Pacific Crest Trail to cross without being met by someone with a horse trailer; and
- There does not exist a safe passageway for hikers, bikers, and equestrians to cross the Columbia River between Portland and The Dalles.

Please forward this bill with full committee support for this critical appropriation.



Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Noll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Noll,
Coalition Director,
Oregon Trails Coalition
PO Box 14814
Portland, OR 97293