

Honorable Senator Chris Gorsek (D – Gresham) and Representative Susan McLain (D – Hillsboro),

Thanks you for taking the time to hear what is important to Tillamook County residents and public entities. Our towns rely on tourism; but we want to encourage the visitors who honor the natural environment and take time to seek alternative forms of transportation. As a young adult I traveled from the Willamette Valley to the coast via bicycle. It was an arduous journey but one that has stuck with me for decades. Many people bicycle or hike between the valley and the coast and more would do so if there was a safer more user friendly route to take.

There are a myriad of Rails-to-Trails programs that provide safe hiking and biking on abandoned railheads. The Salmonberry trail project is one such trail that would be a route to get to the coast in a healthy and safe manner.

Not only is this a great recreational trail, it also will serve as a safe passage for home to school for our youth and home to work for our citizens.

Please support this transportation alternative in your funding and planning for the future of Oregon transportation.

Respectfully,

**Karen Matthews
City of Wheeler, City Council President**

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