

Submitter: Stephanie Noll

On Behalf Of: Oregon Trails Coalition

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure: HB2737

January 30th, 2023

Dear Chair Grayber and Members of the Committee:

I'm submitting this testimony in support of HB 2737 on behalf of the Oregon Trails Coalition.

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

Our advisory council includes representatives from more than twenty-five federal, state, and local agencies, trail user groups, outdoor industry and tourism partners, conservation advocates, and volunteer organizations. We represent walkers, bikers, runners, paddlers, equestrians, adaptive equipment users, skiers, snowmobilers, and motorized trail enthusiasts.

HB 2737 would allow state agencies to transfer, donate, exchange or lease property to one of the nine federally-recognized Indian Tribes in Oregon while continuing to follow the existing Department of Administrative Services approval processes for sale, transfer or exchange of property.

Our Coalition is founded on a key value of collaboration, and we are committed to supporting the increasing number of instances in which federal, state, and local governments are collaborating with Oregon's tribes and indigenous communities in the management of lands and waters with the goals of stewardship, restoring treaty rights, and increasing sustainable access to nature, outdoor recreation, and first foods.

As state agencies evaluate the best management of sites in their ownership, we know they occasionally identify properties that could be transferred to a different land manager to more effectively or efficiently meet historic, cultural or recreation needs in an area. We support the addition of their ability to transfer properties to Oregon's tribes along with the existing ability to transfer properties to local, state, or federal governments when it is in the public interest.

We hope to see this legislation forwarded by the committee.

Thank you for your leadership,

Stephanie Noll,
Coalition Director,
Oregon Trails Coalition