

Testimony in support of SB 679: Oregon Coast Trail

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John Beaston

I write in support of funding the closure of gaps in the Oregon Coast Trail. I live adjacent to the trail in Manzanita. Being so close to the trail, I walk the Headwaters portion on Neahkahnie Mountain many times each month and have hiked almost all of the sections along the North Coast. We are blessed on the North Coast with an almost contiguous non-Hwy 101 OCT.

I have also cycletoured the entire Oregon coast twice and am a [WarmShowers](#) host offering a place to stay (and a warm shower) for other touring cyclists. We always talk with visitors about the OCT as a way to get even more “upfront and personal” to our abundant coastal beauty.

Like the Oregon Coast Bike Route, a no-gap OCT will encourage self-propelled users of all types - local, regional, and international - with minimal, non-polluting impact to existing, crowded facilities all the while spending dollars at local businesses. Funding the gaps along the OCT would be a small investment in the kind of tourism we want to see more of on our coast.