

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources
From: Al Johnson
Re: Testimony in support of SB 679 – Oregon Coast Trail funding
Dated: February 20, 2023

Greetings, Chair Golden and Committee Members

I would like to thank Senators Brock-Smith and Knopp for bringing this important bill before you.

I would also like to salute trailmakers Connie Soper and Dan Hilburn for their tireless advocacy for the Oregon Coast Trail over the past many years. I'm sure they would agree that the process has been a lot like walking the trail itself.

This bill is a critical next step, not only in funding, but in sending a strong signal of legislative support for successful completion of the long trek ahead. As you can tell from the testimony before you, your bill has already generated fresh enthusiasm and from key players along the coast, and the passage of the bill will generate even more.

The trail will not be finished for years, but every connection that is made will be a giant step along the way, for users and for Oregon's coastal communities. Thank you for joining the journey.

Al Johnson
Eugene