



THE PEARL OF TILLAMOOK BAY

City of Bay City

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Written Testimony of David McCall, Mayor

**Prepared for the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Newport, Oregon
April 14, 2023**

***Re: Support for Nehalem River Bridge Pile Restoration
On the Port of Tillamook Bay/Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad***

My name is David McCall and I am the Mayor for the City of Bay City, Oregon, in Tillamook County.

I have prepared this testimony to respectfully pursue your support for a \$750,000 appropriation to restore the piling under the 2nd Crossing of the Nehalem River Railroad Bridge near Mohler in Tillamook County, as requested through Tillamook County legislators Senator Weber and Representative Javadi.

This project will restore several miles of railroad access up the Nehalem River Valley and would result in numerous benefits, including:

- Bay City experienced the Pike Road Fire in September 2020 resulting in Level 1, 2 and 3 evacuations for members of our community. We have just initiated a Firewise Program in our community. We are sensitive to wildfires in our region. Parts of Bay City are considered in the Wildfire Urban Interface. The Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad's (OCSR) 40,000-gallon firefighting train will be able to access further up the Nehalem River Valley to help with firefighting efforts in heavily forested areas, including the areas of the state forest. OCSR already works closely with several fire departments regarding the deployment of the train under red flag conditions.
- Bay City has applied for an Oregon Department of Transportation Community Path Grant to construct a safe pedestrian/bicycle crossing of Hwy 101 in Bay City and to design 1.7 miles of the Salmonberry Trail. This is one short section of the 87-mile proposed Salmonberry Trail from Western Washington County to the City of Tillamook. This trail will be using the Nehalem River Bridge crossing. This dual-purpose corridor and the OCSR are working with the Salmonberry Trail Foundation to ensure this bridge is dual mode compatible. This dual-purpose design also allows for greater access by the public to the Nehalem Valley than previously possible, for example people with ADA considerations that may have struggled with a trail for a long distance can explore further by utilizing a train/trail combination.

I hope that you will consider this funding request and thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

David McCall, Mayor