

Submitter: Scott Barnard
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I am expressing our strong support for state investment in the development of the Salmonberry Trail. This transformative project is an incredible opportunity to enhance the livability, economic vitality, health, and overall well-being of communities from Washington County to the Oregon Coast, benefiting all Oregonians.

The Salmonberry Trail will repurpose existing infrastructure to create 82 contiguous miles of safe, accessible outdoor recreation space and active transportation. By investing in the Salmonberry Trail, Oregon can expand access to outdoor recreation while fostering economic resilience in historically underinvested areas.

Additionally, the Salmonberry Trail will improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, offering a dedicated pathway for school children, families, and residents who currently must navigate hazardous roadways. This investment directly supports Oregon's goals of increasing transportation safety, promoting active lifestyles, and ensuring equitable access to outdoor spaces.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to choose to draw communities in Oregon together in a simple and elegant way while attracting world-wide tourism highlighting the outdoor lifestyle the Northwest has earned a reputation for. As the Oregon Legislature considers funding priorities, we urge you to support state investment in the Salmonberry Trail. This is an opportunity to champion sustainable infrastructure, economic development, and public health for future generations.

Thank you for your leadership and vision for Oregon's future.

Sincerely,

Scott & Tami Barnard