

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

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez,

Please support funding for the Salmonberry Trail. This project represents an exciting opportunity to create an 82-mile, safe, and accessible trail connecting the Oregon Coast and the Willamette Valley.

With other volunteers, I've helped clear brush, small trees and other woody debris from the trailbed where the Salmonberry Trail is getting built. But it takes staffing to coordinate volunteers - and some essential projects, like rebuilding trestles, can't be done safely by volunteers. State and other funding will be essential to get this trail built out.

I and so many others will relish the chance to take a few days walking from the Willamette Valley to the coast, camping out or staying at inns along the way. Having just returned from a pilgrimage trail with my family in Japan, I'm reminded that in other parts of the world these opportunities abound. But in the US, almost nowhere is this an option. Oregon has the chance to create this wonderful opportunity for residents to connect with nature and small communities in our state. We're at the 'getting started' stage now. But with great leadership of the Salmonberry Trail team, I'm confident that this trail will grow and extend to eventually become a much-loved legacy for generations of Oregonians to come. Let's get it started, with a little support from the legislature this session.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,
Eli Spevak