

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

I support the Salmonberry Trail funding. I attended the recent Ways and Means Committee in Astoria, but time ran out before I was able to speak. This is a mixed use trail with the final segment running parallel to Hwy 101 between Wheeler and Tillamook. Hwy 101 has many very narrow and blind turns along the cliffs and Oregon Coast Scenic railroad. Bicycles, RVs, log trucks, commuters, school buses and railroad all compete for width in the narrow spots, with many bicycle accidents and deaths occurring over the last 20 years. The Salmonberry trail will provide a safe alternative to the pinch points on Hwy 101 and save much money currently wasted on accidents. Tillamook County economy is now 80% tourism based and we must invest in resources that support our new 'lion's share' industry. Current parks are being overwhelmed with visitors and the Salmonberry Trail will provide another needed link in our park system.
Sincerely, Kenneth Hill