

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

I highly support the completion of the Salmonberry Trail. My testimony may be unique in that I have first-hand experience with the Nationwide success of many other Rails-to-Trails.

My partner and I have spent thousands of dollars traveling by bike through many states including Missouri (the Katy Trail), Pennsylvania (GAP & C&O Trail), and Washington's vast network of trails. Add to this list, the East Coast Greenway Trail from North Carolina to Maine.

This is not a niche. It's the growing future as baby-boomers become retirees with spending money and health on their side.

A Rails-to-Trails ride is unique. We support the small grocery store that cars tend to pass by. We stay in private campgrounds whose owner offer a welcoming smile. We visit the winery that's near the trail. Bike shops are a must stop, not to mention car rentals, coffee shops, and hotels. Yup, we spend and spend and so does every other rider we cross paths with. Also, riders from out of State won't be deterred by rain. We ride rain or shine!

The trails are always clean, people are respectful and nearly everyone has a large smile on their face.

I have spoken to many business owners during these rides. Some were initially skeptical, but all have embraced their local trail. In many cases, the trail provided a lifeline for maintaining their small community. Without question. Everyone wins!

Please help fund the trail. As a native Oregonian, I along with many friends and family are 100% behind this effort.