



Salmonberry Trail Support

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

As the Executive Director of the Oregon Coast Visitors Association, I am writing to express my strong support for an \$8 million investment in the Salmonberry Trail, as this project will create an 82-mile safe and accessible trail that will connect the Oregon Coast with the Willamette Valley.

Tourism is one of the primary economic drivers on the Oregon Coast, generating 26,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion in visitor spending. The Salmonberry Trail will bring a range of benefits to Oregonians—boosting local economies through increased tourism, promoting public health through active recreation, and improving transportation safety for those who currently lack safe alternatives to busy highways. It also creates equitable access to the outdoors, especially for rural communities that have historically seen less investment in recreational infrastructure. All of these benefits are good for visitors, in addition to creating an even better quality of life for year-round residents.

As the state considers funding priorities, I urge you to include the Salmonberry Trail. This is a smart, future-focused investment that will serve Oregon for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Marcus Hinz

Oregon Coast Visitors Association