

Submitter: Michael Filicky

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse and Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction,

I'm writing to express my strong support for state investment in 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. The proposed trail has the potential to be a nationwide draw for active recreation. I feel it would be another crown jewel for Oregon much like Crater Lake and the Columbia River Gorge. It would provide an educational resource with a blend of recreation, local history, nature studies, and forest management. The Salmonberry Trail Foundation has the administrative and volunteer resources to effectively deliver trail segments. It is a fine example of what Oregonians working together can accomplish.

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.

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.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Michael Filicky
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