



Date: March 20, 2017
Re: House Bill 3149 - Oregon Coast Trail Bill

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 3149.

The Wild Rivers Coast Alliance (WRCA) is happy to offer its wholehearted support for this bill. WRCA is a philanthropic organization primarily serving the south Oregon coast from the Coquille River watershed in Coos County to the California state line. WRCA was founded in 2010 by Mike Keiser, owner of the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, after discussing the needs and opportunities for philanthropic investment on the south coast with representatives of the community, the nonprofit sector, businesses, and local governments. Over the past few years, WRCA has made grants totaling over \$2.5 million to a variety of organizations for projects furthering WRCA's priorities, which include supporting healthy fish and species habitat, working landscapes and seascapes, sustainable tourism, and local entrepreneurship on the southern Oregon coast. (For details, please see our website at www.wildriverscoastalliance.com)

WRCA has a natural interest in the Oregon Coast Trail, which threads through our service area for over 100 miles. Many of those miles are on the beach or on trails, but too many are still on Highway 101. We have been in conversation with trail advocates about the need for planning funding to increase the number of off-highway trail miles in our service area. This bill provides a vehicle for that effort, and we would expect to provide some of the funding for the planning that it contemplates. Our hope would be that, as with many of WRCA's other grants, our contribution would help to leverage additional funding from other sources, public and private.

We have been impressed with the homework done by the proponents of HB 3149 and its sponsors. We urge you to support its passage and look forward to being a part of the future of this very special historic, cultural, recreational, and economic resource.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Seeley".

Jim Seeley
Executive Director
Wild Rivers Coast Alliance