



American Planning Association  
**Oregon Chapter**

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*Making Great Communities Happen*

Monday, March 20, 2017

Representative Brian Clem, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources **in support of HB 3149.**

Dear Chair Clem and Committee Members,

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit educational organization with 850 members that provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change.

**Our organization has reviewed HB 3149 and support the bill as drafted. We respectfully ask that the Committee vote the bill out of committee with a Do Pass recommendation.**

HB 3149 directs the State Parks and Recreation Department and the Department of Transportation to take the lead to create an action plan to complete the Oregon Coast Trail. One of the things that Oregonians value about the state is the access to recreational opportunities. Many people move to Oregon or come to visit so they can hike the abundant trails throughout the state. Completion of the Oregon Coast Trail would be a landmark accomplishment that would benefit the economies of coastal communities as a major visitor draw.

In addition, research<sup>1</sup> in Nebraska found that for every \$1 spent on trails, there was almost \$3 in direct medical cost savings. OAPA supports efforts to improve the built environment to improve the health of Oregonians and visitors to our state. This bill, and the Oregon Coast Trail, is important for our economy and our health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeannine Rustad'.

Jeannine Rustad, JD, President  
Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association

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<sup>1</sup> Active Living Research, [http://activelivingresearch.org/sites/default/files/ALR.Resources.Summary\\_Parks\\_06.26.15.pdf](http://activelivingresearch.org/sites/default/files/ALR.Resources.Summary_Parks_06.26.15.pdf).  
Viewed 3/17/17.