



## Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association

1201 Court Street NE, Suite 300 | Salem, OR 97301 | oczma.org

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June 30, 2017

Co-Chairs Senator Girod & Rep. Holvey  
Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

### Regarding Support of House Bill 3149

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

Starting at the Columbia River and ending over 370 miles later at the California border, the Oregon Coast Trail (OCT) is the only trail in the country to span an entire coastline. The trail draws on our history – passing shipwrecks and lighthouses, locations of cultural significance to the coastal tribes, and following the footsteps of Lewis and Clark – while leading visitors along Oregon’s beautiful public beaches and scenic headways and capes, and in and out of small towns up and down the coast. This unique trail is relatively level for most of its length and its configuration lends itself to both long and short hikes, while also having great potential for village to village walking. Its location allows for spectacular views that cannot be seen from Highway 101, as well as exploration of isolated beaches and tide pools.

The OCT is a treasure for the coast and for the state that has gained popularity over its forty years despite the large unfinished sections that require visitors to walk along the shoulder of Highway 101, which presents obvious public safety concerns for our counties and communities. After forty years of demonstrated value, the trail merits completion. Finishing the OCT will improve the safety for walkers, hikers and bikers, it will enhance the recreational opportunities available, and it lends itself to an extremely marketable world-class village-to-village attraction that will drive additional tourism dollars to our local economies without adding more cars to Highway 101.

Additionally, House Bill 3149, is a thoughtfully crafted piece of legislation that will provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing the gaps in the trail while providing a framework to encourage potential funders and positioning the project to compete for grants, without creating

\* *Legislative Committee only*

a fiscal impact for the State (with the dash 4 amendments).

Completing the trail presents us with the opportunity to show off our beautiful coastline in all its glory in a safe well-maintained way that protects the natural environment we cherish. We cannot think of a more fitting tribute for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Oregon's Beach Bill.

We hope you agree and urge you to vote yes on House Bill 3149. It's time to finish the Oregon Coast Trail and allow it meet its full potential.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For more information, please contact OCZMA's Policy Managers Mark Nystrom or Rob Bovett at:

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