



June 2 2021

2021 Oregon Legislative Session  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: Support for HB 3281

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield; Vice Co-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith; and Members of the Committee,

We are writing in support of Oregon House Bill 3281 that is intended to provide needed funding for the [Oregon Coast Trail \(OCT\)](#). On behalf of the landowners we have convened to assist with development of an action plan to connect the remaining gaps in the OCT, we write to highlight the importance of state funding for related projects. Legislative funding for the OCT can be leveraged to enhance outdoor recreation as well as scenic, educational, resource protection and post-COVID economic recovery possibilities for our coastal communities.

Completion of the OCT has broad support. In 2017 the Oregon Legislature (House Bill 3149; Oregon Revised Statutes 390.308) directed Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to develop an action plan for connecting across the “gaps” particularly where the OCT is along U.S. Highway 101 and other roads, creating unsafe conditions. In 2018 Governor Brown designated the OCT as one of her [Oregon Solutions projects](#). The Governor appointed us to work as her co-conveners for this effort. Our task is to bring together landowners hosting the Trail to collaborate on development of an action plan and identify resources for the on-going maintenance of existing segments and the completion of new connecting segments.

We are diligently convening that work now in collaboration with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Transportation, other interested state agencies, federal agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, advocates and other stakeholders. A list is attached.

Thank you for your work for all Oregonians during these challenging times. We appreciate your consideration of House Bill 3281 to assist with OCT maintenance and construction projects that are needed to fully connect the trail and provide a world class experience for our communities, our state and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

Oregon Representative David Brock Smith, Co-Convener

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commissioner Douglas Deur, Co-Convener

C: Oregon Governor Kate Brown  
Oregon Coast Trail - Statewide Landowner Group participants (list)



## Oregon Coast Trail – Statewide Landowners Group

The Oregon Coast Trail traverses sandy beaches, forested trails, stunning headlands, seven counties, twenty-eight towns, and numerous rural communities, but some sections are disconnected, inconvenient, unsafe, or seasonally inaccessible.

The Statewide Landowners Group is collaborating to maintain and complete the Trail. This includes addressing safety issues particularly where the Trail is now routed along the shoulder of Highway 101 and rural county roads.

The Group is comprised of landowners hosting the Trail and includes participation by:

- Association of Oregon Counties
- Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw
- Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
- League of Oregon Cities
- Oregon Coast Visitors Association, Travel Oregon
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Regional Solutions Program, Office of Oregon Governor Brown
- Siuslaw National Forest, U.S. Forest Service
- Western Federal Lands, U.S. Federal Highways Administration