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Joint Ways & Means Committee on Natural Resources

Agriculture & Land Use

Natural Resources

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Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources Unanimously Supports Funding for Furthering the Completion of the Oregon Coast Trail

SALEM – The Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources met this week and passed the recommended budget for the Oregon State Parks. Included in the recommended budget was \$1.25 million dollars to conduct an assessment of existing Coast Trail conditions and facility needs, to provide restoration or trail reroutes for maintenance goals, design and construct identified trail side facilities and improve trail signage as needed.

2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Beach Bill, House Bill 1601 (1967), in which the Legislative Assembly established the public’s right to uninterrupted use of Oregon’s shoreline and beaches. The Oregon Coast Trail spans more than 350 miles of Oregon coastline from the south jetty of the Columbia River on the north to the Oregon-California border, south of Brookings-Harbor, taking advantage of the publicly owned beaches and providing connections between the beaches. During the 2017 Oregon Legislative Session, Representative David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford) Chief Sponsored HB 3149 which outlined steps forward to complete the Oregon Coast Trail. Governor Brown then designated the Oregon Coast Trail as an Oregon Solutions Project and named Rep. David Brock Smith a Co-Convener. The project designation directs the statewide landowners group to establish the governance structure needed for finalizing an action plan and moving forward with implementation.

“I am grateful to the Ways & Means Co-Chairs for their efforts to provide resources to aid in the completion of the Oregon Coast Trail,” said Rep. David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford). “As a Chief Sponsor of HB 3149 in the ’17 Session and Co-Convener of this Governor Brown designated Oregon Solutions Project, I appreciate all of the stakeholders and these resources to further our work to complete the trail,” he said. “This work continues to expand our ongoing tourism driven economic development efforts along the Oregon Coast that will continue to provide added benefits to our coastal communities and their businesses.”

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Rep. David Brock Smith represents House District 1, which includes Curry, Coos, Douglas and Josephine counties. This press release and an archive of previous press releases issued by Rep. David Brock Smith’s office are available on the web at: www.oregonlegislature.gov/smithd