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**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 9, 2009

Ms. Marilyn Lippincott  
Senior Grants Project Coordinator  
725 Summer St. NE Suite C  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Ms. Lippincott:

I am writing in support of the initiative by the Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA) to develop a mountain bike trail network in the Wanoga area along Century Drive near Bend. COTA is applying for an Oregon Recreation Trails Program Grant to fund the project.

You may know that last year I initiated an effort to identify key opportunities to enhance the recreation assets of Deschutes County. An ad hoc committee was established, and the committee completed its work in June. A copy of the committee's report is attached; during the course of the project, the committee recognized that the area mountain bike community is significantly better organized than some of the other user groups, as evidenced by their strong working relationship with the U.S. Forest Service, their ability to generate impressive volunteer turnouts, and the rapidly growing participation in the pastime of mountain biking.

This project request falls exactly in line with the Ad Hoc Committee's work. It would expand opportunities for participation, increasing the region's quality of life and contributing to its economic vitality.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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