

**From:** Valerie Lantz <[trail.horse.rider14@gmail.com](mailto:trail.horse.rider14@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 1:14 AM

**To:** [helena.zyblikewycz@mail.house.gov](mailto:helena.zyblikewycz@mail.house.gov); [Alex.Piper@mail.house.gov](mailto:Alex.Piper@mail.house.gov); [jackie.schmitz@mail.house.gov](mailto:jackie.schmitz@mail.house.gov); [Jake.Bornstein@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jake.Bornstein@mail.house.gov); [michael.falencki@mail.house.gov](mailto:michael.falencki@mail.house.gov); [cheryle.tucker@mail.house.gov](mailto:cheryle.tucker@mail.house.gov); [CRTleadership@rectrails.org](mailto:CRTleadership@rectrails.org)

**Subject:** RTP support - note that my attempt to email Sam Graves failed as I reside outside of his district.

May 27, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Chairman House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

2165 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves Ranking Member House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

2164 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am an avid trail user in Oregon who volunteers 500+ hours annually to keep trails open. I participated on Oregon's RTP committee in the 1990's which made me personally familiar with the projects funded by the RTP. Funding cuts in many agencies created a backlog of trail work yet to be addressed. RTP funding is crucial to trails in Oregon and across the nation.

I am writing to request that HR 5797, "The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act of 2020" sponsored by Congressman Welch of VT and Congressman Curtis of UT be included in the transportation re-authorization bill currently being drafted in your committee. Without Congressional approval before September 30th, the program is at risk of going dormant, creating a huge void for recreational trail development and maintenance funding.

Oregon's recent Phase 1 reopening after the COVID19 shut down illustrates how important trails are as they were inundated with people seeking the outdoors. The FIRST PLACE people choose to enjoy the outdoors in a healthful manner is TRAILS! That response demonstrates the importance of keeping and expanding trails.

The RTP program accomplishes important trail work across the country, thanks to your past support. Thank you for your consideration. It is critical that HR 5797 be included in the upcoming transportation re-authorization bill.

Sincerely,

*Valerie Lantz*

95257 Wind Song Lane

North Bend, Oregon 97459

[trail.horse.rider14@gmail.com](mailto:trail.horse.rider14@gmail.com)