Lauren Fisher Portland LD 1450

Having access to public spaces for recreating is critical to the continued health and wellness of both our community and also its environs. The expanded rail trail will transform a space that has long been dormant into a corridor that will connect people from one area to another, encouraging alternative forms of transportation (diverting away from car traffic) as well as providing opportunities for safe, outdoor recreation. At present, biking on roads shared with cars can deter people from getting on their bikes and increases the dangers associated with bike recreation. Such a protected space would address these concerns and get more people outside in ways that are beneficial to them, the community, and the environment! There is no better use of transportation funds than to diversify the types of transportation access that people have, to make outdated transportation corridors (rail ways out of use) useable again, and to bring more people into the outdoors.