Councilors and Mayor --

I've loved walking along the Cannon Beach dunes since I was a child in the 1970's. Now I'm lucky enough to enjoy weekends and vacations at our family beach house here.

On of my favorite things to do is to talk to tourists visiting from all over the country. Often they want to know how they can access a public beach. When I point to the nearest path, they look puzzled: “But doesn't that land belong to the big house or hotel next to it?”

I proudly tell them about the 1967 Oregon Beach Bill and how it established our right to public access along the entire Oregon coast: “The path, and dunes, and stretch of shoreline belong to the people, not the oceanfront property owners.”

But then in the past few years when visitors ask me why there are bulldozers tearing up the dunes, or why the dunes are all wonky, or topped with “hair plugs,” I don't have an answer. Maybe that guarantee of public ownership of these coastal dunes was only my idealistic perception.

Will people with a personal and financial incentive to improve their own ocean views be allowed to chip away at the Beach Bill and the public’s physical and visual access to these spectacular dunes?

Sincerely,

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