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Community Comment: "Blazing a Trail to Humboldt's Brighter Future" - Darus Trutna

Hi, My name is Darus Trutna and, for this community comment, I wanted to share a few thoughts on why the Humboldt Bay Trail, and many projects like it, are why I'm excited for Humboldt County. As a Humboldt native, I recognize we have our economic and social challenges, but as an optimist, I believe that focusing on pathways forward through those challenges, is a much more productive use of time, much more than simply complaining on facebook without providing realistic solutions or, even more importantly, helping execute on those ideas.

So why do I propose that the Humboldt Bay Trail highlights a brighter future for us? Well, let me share my experience.

Years ago, I walked through quote unquote "Devil's playground" behind the Bayshore Mall and I felt like I was on the set of a mad max or post apocalyptic movie set. It was full of shopping carts, encampments, and a community of people living on the edge. It was not welcoming. So it was with astonishment that, just a few years later, I went for a bike ride one morning around town and went back through the same exact area and witnessed a night and day difference. There were families walking on the trail, people jogging, and I enjoyed a clear beautiful view of our majestic bay. It was wonderful to experience the change and I'm excited to see the next stages as our local agencies and community members strive to continue building out the trail, eventually working to connect arcata and eureka, and then potentially beyond. I send my thanks to everyone that turned a neglected area into a welcoming trail because it proves to me that dedicated individuals really can make a difference. The trail inspires confidence that other community improvement projects from painting utility boxes, to art festivals, to increasing access to housing, can and will lead to a better quality of life for everyone here.

And at a higher level, the trail reminds me that we are in a time of significant change and significant potential. For the first time in human history, we have the necessary capability, technology and resources to address almost every fundamental problem on this planet, including concerns about nourishment, health, education, and the environment. A bay trail does not solve all our problems, but it serves as a model and it highlights the fact that dedicated individuals and communities can come together to blaze a new trail forward. A trail helps a community connect, learn about itself, and raise awareness of greater connections. It gives me confidence that we have potential for a bright future ahead of us and I look forward to seeing you on that trail. Thank you.