

MEASURE: SCR 207
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SUBMITTED BY: Russell Hoeflich

February 7, 2012

Senator Jackie Dingfelder
Oregon State Capitol S-407
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Dingfelder and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 207.

Joining many Oregonians, we mourn the loss of Gail Achterman. In her honor, we want to express our gratitude for the many lasting gifts she brought to Oregon, and we offer our deepest sympathies to her family.

Gail was a unique individual whose vision was always as great as the landscapes she surveyed. A leader who crossed disciplines, she challenged conventional wisdom, broke complex problems into simpler components, and led the way to new solutions. Gail was one of the first to encourage Oregonians to think and work together across landscapes – her custom Oregon salmon license plate read “WTRSHD” for watershed. She inspired her fellow citizens to act, and by her own actions led the way to innovations in water policy, creative solutions in transportation systems, protection for the exceptional treasure of the Columbia River Gorge, and an expansive vision of livability in the Willamette Valley, among many other achievements.

Many of us at The Nature Conservancy were fortunate to work with Gail. We will greatly miss her enthusiasm, her generous spirit, her warmth and her intelligence. As we look to the future of conservation in Oregon and as we work with all Oregonians to ensure that our state’s extraordinary natural heritage thrives, we do so inspired by her vision and mindful that this work is, to a large degree, her lasting legacy.

Sincerely,

Russell Hoeflich



Vice President and Oregon Director
The Nature Conservancy