



February 26, 2015

Representative Brian Clem
Chair, House Rural Communities, Land Use and Water
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Public Ports Association (OPPA) consists of all 23 public ports in the State of Oregon. Oregon's public ports serve among others: the maritime, air, freight, manufacturing, industrial, recreational, and agricultural communities. Our members are located from the Port of Brookings Harbor just north of the Oregon boarder north to the Port of Astoria and east approximately 290 river miles east along the Columbia River to the Port of Umatilla. Our membership wishes to express its support to HB 2039, but also to suggest one change for the committee's consideration.

The Columbia River Gorge Commission plays an important role in the Gorge Scenic Area. The Commission is responsible for the implementation of the two main purposes of the Gorge Scenic Area Act of 1985— environmental protection and economic development— and its activities impact communities throughout the Gorge, including three public ports. The work of the Commission is not always understood and its funding, coming equally from the states of Oregon and Washington, has fluctuated widely over the years. It is important for the Commission to function properly, have adequate resources and respond to the needs and issues of the complex and rapidly evolving National Scenic Area. HB 2039 will authorize a Task Force composed of members equally representative of both states that can provide a needed perspective and assist the Gorge Commission in becoming more responsive, effective and stable.

The OPPA would like to suggest one change to the present draft. Specifically, lines 7 and 13 of the printed bill requires that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to each appoint two members from "within or adjacent to the Columbia River George National Scenic Area." This requirement, although well intended, we believe ought to be modified. We are concerned that this language could dilute the ability of publicly elected members within the Scenic Area from being able to have a weighted opinion on a task force that could have far-reaching and lasting consequences in their local communities.

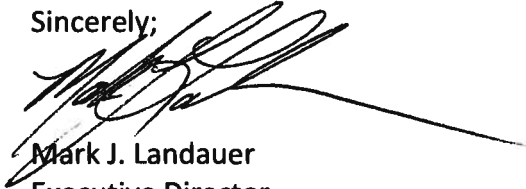
We suggest that the appointment procedures and number of members of the Task Force be altered such that a third member be added to the appointment process for the Speaker of the

House and President of the Senate. Furthermore, we would suggest that at least one of the three appointees be from the other major party.

Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Best regards.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Landauer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark J. Landauer
Executive Director
Oregon Public Ports Association