

CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK TRUST
P.O. Box 62
Crater Lake, Oregon 97604

March 17, 2017

Representative Caddy McKeown, Chairperson and Members
House Committee On Transportation Policy
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon

Re: Support for House Bill 2922
Increase surcharge collected for issuance of Crater Lake National Park registration
Plates.

Dear Chair McKeown and members:

Since 2006, the Crater Lake National Park Trust was formed as a 501©3 non-profit organization, dedicated to fundraising for special park projects and science education programs at Crater Lake National Park. I currently serve as the chair for the trust.

Citizens of Oregon have purchased over 250,000 Crater Lake license plates since the 100th anniversary of the park in 2002. This one-time surcharge of \$20.00 less the additional costs for manufacturing the plate and administrative fee from Oregon DMV now generates a contribution to an Oregon Community Foundation endowment of \$ 15.82 per set of plates purchased.

The Oregon Community Foundation Crater Lake License Plate fund is now valued at over \$4 million. Earnings of 4-5% from the endowment are utilized by the Park Superintendent for operational support of educational and special projects at the park. It is a genuine success.

We support raising the fee from \$ 20.00 per set to \$ 30.00 per set in 2018. The fee remains a one-time surcharge and remains the lowest cost custom plate offered by the Oregon DMV. The increased actual costs for the plates and administrative fees have never been offset since the plate has been issued in 2002. Currently over 1,200 plates are purchased by Oregonians each month.

While this is reason enough to ask for the increase, what is really exciting is the proposed new Crater Lake Rim Village Information and Education Center. Earnings from the license plate endowment could be used to support the operation and development of this needed center at Oregon's only national park. Last year over 750,000 people visited the park. The new center will leave a lasting impression on visitors of Oregon's national treasure. Oregonians who purchase the plates will take pride in their contribution to this facility and its operation.

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In conclusion, we appreciate that Representatives Esquivel and Marsh have sponsored this measure and ask for your support of moving HB 2922 forward in the 2017 Regular Session.

Yours truly,

William D. Thorndike, Jr.
Chair
Crater Lake National Park Trust
(541) 770-1172
info@craterlaketrust.org

billthorndike@gmail.com