



Deborah Kafoury Multnomah County Chair

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March 20, 2017

Senator Frederick and Representative Witt:

I am writing to convey support for the Governor's proposed budget for the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

As you know, the Gorge National Scenic Area is home to some of Multnomah County's rural residents, important natural resources and the location of the waterfall corridor that is one of the top tourist destinations in Oregon.


In recent years, Multnomah County and Gorge Commission planning staff have forged a productive relationship that has allowed us to complete some work that put to rest technical issues that had caused confusion for our residents and various agencies.

I'm pleased to hear of the new spirit of comity among commissioners representing different parts of the Gorge along with an excellent working relationship between the commission and staff.

This progress could not come at a better time given the need to update the Management Plan for the Gorge in the face of new challenges and opportunities. These include increased fossil fuel transport, tourist related congestion and climate change. In addition the rapid shift in the economy of the Gorge from timber processing and agriculture to high tech, advanced manufacturing and tourism has brought both new jobs and concerns about rising home prices.

Given these circumstances, I'm asking you to approve the budget proposed by the Governor, including a very modest increase of \$125,000. This funding will help provide additional expertise to update the Management Plan and more pro-actively engage in government to government consultation with the four Treaty Tribes who are essential to the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Kafoury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Chair