

February 5, 2018



RE: HB 4152

Dear Chair Evans and Members of the House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee:

I am writing you in support of HB4152, a bill to provide grants to the sheriff's departments in Hood River and Multnomah Counties. Please know that the Port of Cascade Locks, an Oregon Municipal Corporation charged with enhancing local economic development, stands in full support of this bill.

Being a part of the National Scenic Area (NSA) and dealing with all the tourists and increased uses of the natural resources of the Gorge, should encourage the legislature to set aside funding to assist with the impact of this increased and heavy use. Both states have signed a two state compact that implements the federal law that established the NSA. Funding for emergency preparedness and assisting in recovery from the recent fire should be a part of the Oregon responsibility for the NSA.

Since its inception in 1986, we have seen a major effort on the part of the State to encourage visitors from all over the world to come to the NSA. And, it is working! We see more and more visitors annually to the NSA, and that increase in visitors and use places an unusual burden on emergency services within the NSA. HB4152 is a step in the right direction to begin to meet some of the responsibilities of the State.

The NSA represents a wonderful resource for both the region and the State and its economy. Because the State and the federal government were instrumental in creating the NSA, it seems clear that the State should play a larger role in funding the necessary services to fully actualize the NSA.

HB4152 represents an important first step in encouraging the State to meet more of its responsibility within the NSA. We strongly support this bill and hope that it will be passed and implemented.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul Koch  
General Manager  
Port of Cascade Locks