

"The Heart of the Columbia River Gorge"



City of Cascade Locks
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Senator Fred Girod
Representative Paul Holvey
Co-Chairs of the Capital Construction Committee

April 18, 2019

Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

The City of Cascade Locks is in a rebirth of sorts. After many years of declining population and high unemployment, the City has grown 20% in housing stock since February of 2015. In 2010 our unemployment rate was 26% and our assessed valuation was \$62 million. As of 2019 our unemployment rate is down to 12% and our assessed valuation is up to \$100 million. In the last two years we have gained 80 jobs and 8 new businesses. All of this growth can be attributed to a Port that is actively seeking new businesses and a City that has recognized you can't have growth if you don't have the infrastructure to support it.

This letter is in support of new jobs and new tourist attractions, as well as safety, by developing building to house established and growing businesses, and by providing pedestrians with a safe way to cross the Columbia River. The bill before the Committee will help the City continue on its growth curve and be a shining example of how a small investment in a rural community can pay big dividends.

The Port of Cascade Locks Government Relations Director, Mark Johnson, will be present at your hearing and will be able to speak to both the need and the opportunity. This funding will lead to creation of over 100 new local jobs for our community that now has a 12% unemployment rate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordon Zimmerman
City Administrator

*Cascade Locks is where the Bridge of the Gods spans the Heart of the Gorge;
where mountain, wind, and water create the best sailing in the Northwest;
and where the "CL" on the license plate stands for Cascade Locks, the second largest city in Hood River County!
The City of Cascade Locks is an Equal Opportunity Provider.*