

March 30, 2021

Senate Committee on Rules  
900 Court Street NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR. 97301

Dear Chair Wagner and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

I write this letter to express my full support for the appointment of Dr. Ashley Thompson to the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Thompson on Hood River County projects in my role as County Commission Chair and as an Orchardist. She has proven to be a great resource for our agriculture industry by providing much needed timely information, support, and direction. Dr. Thompson cares about our whole community and has been instrumental in helping to meet the needs of the seasonal and migrant farm workers.

I appreciate her efforts to help preserve farmland, while sustaining the scenic beauty of the region. With her formal training in the sciences and understanding of agriculture in both Wasco and Hood River County, Dr. Thompson would be a great resource as a member of the Columbia River Gorge Commission. After all, agriculture is one of the Gorge's key industries, and the mix of forests, farm, and other lands help provide the scenic mix that make the Gorge, the Gorge. The Commission would benefit from someone who understand the science and practice and with a deep commitment to it people and preservation.

Mike Oates  
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