



Co-Chairs and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding how the state should utilize funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The mission of Oregon's public ports is to support economic development for their port districts. The Port of Cascade Locks takes this role very seriously and over the last few years has been able to develop over 100 new jobs in a community that has had one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, in spite of fire, ice and now a pandemic. The Port of Cascade Locks requests for ARPA funding continue to focus on local economic development to help the Columbia Gorge region recover from the Covid economy.

- \$350,000 to develop a critically needed parking area and restroom facility on Port property located where the Pacific Crest Trail, the Gorge 400 Trail and a new Forest Service multi-use trail all intersect. Demand for outdoor recreation in the Gorge post-Covid will reach all time highs. This parking development will help meet the need and will also be served by Gorge transit.
- \$250,000 for expanded electrical infrastructure in the Port of Cascade Locks Business Park. Recent completed manufacturing facilities have taxed the Park's electrical capacity. In order to develop additional projects electrical infrastructure will need upgrades. Due to Covid-revenue losses the Port's budget can not afford this investment at this time.
- \$ 2,000,000 to acquire a 16 acre parcel adjacent to the Port's Business Park. This parcel is in a key location that would provide much needed space to site additional manufacturing as well as could be developed into a transit hub to meet regional needs and help alleviate vehicle congestion in the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area.

In conclusion let me emphasize that to this point public ports in Oregon have not shared in Covid-related financial aid that has come from the federal government. Using ARPA funds to support economic development in port districts will provide dividends many times over and will help our state recover more quickly from the effects of Covid-19.

Respectfully,

Mark Johnson

Government Affairs Director

Port of Cascade Locks