

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 5008 Columbia River Gorge Commission

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative K Pham

HB 5008 is the budget bill for the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

The 13-member Commission was established to implement the National Scenic Area Act's purposes of protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Gorge while encouraging compatible growth within existing urban areas of the Gorge region and allowing future economic growth. The states of Oregon and Washington must equally share the joint costs of the agency and Commission employees are Washington State employees.

The Subcommittee recommends a budget of \$2,295,220 General Fund including three policy option packages. The first is a \$905,000 General Fund investment for Phase 2 of the project to replace the current Access Database. Funding of \$63,224 is recommended for Oregon's share of increasing the current part-time Geographic Information System manager to full-time addressing the position's workload and increased responsibilities. Finally, \$5,638 General Fund is included for the increased lease costs for the Commission's office in White Salmon Washington.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 5008 be amended by the –2 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.