



City of Cascade Locks
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TTY 711

February 5, 2024

RE: Support for Bridge of the Goods

Dear Oregon Legislators:

As Butch Miller, Cascade Locks City Council Member, once said, "Cascade Locks has two iconic images: the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler and the Bridge of the Gods." While both are looking at upgrades, this letter is in support of the Port of Cascade Locks effort to keep a vital interstate bridge structure viable for the next century.

The western end of the Columbia River Gorge is an interconnected region spanning two states. 80% of the work force in Cascade Locks, those people who work in our commercial institutions and industrial companies, come from outside of Cascade Locks every day to work. Most of that 80% comes from Skamania County. 80% of the labor in Cascade Locks leaves every day to go to their jobs, some of those jobs are in Washington, meaning that they have to cross the Bridge of the Gods every day to get to work. Many of our residents go north across the bridge to worship on the weekends as well. The trucking industry also routinely crosses the Columbia River to carry their commerce to both states in the northwest region.

The Bridge of the Gods is a vital connection to both states. It is the only bridge between Portland and The Dalles that doesn't need to be replaced, just strengthened to continue to be that vital link between the states for the next century.

The City Council of Cascade Locks strongly supports the Port of Cascade Locks request for funding for the seismic retrofit and preservation project for the iconic Bridge of the Gods.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or contact me at jbennett@cascade-locks.or.us.

Sincerely,

Jordon Bennett

Jordon Bennett
City Administrator
City of Cascade Locks