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49th Legislative District

September 28, 2016

Krystyna Wolniakowski
Columbia River Gorge Commission
57 NE Wauna Avenue
PO Box 730
White Salmon, WA 98672-0730

Dear Krystyna,

On behalf of the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the Regional Transportation Planning Organization for Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat Counties of Washington State, I would like to communicate RTC's full support for the Gorge Commission's proposed value based process for supporting transportation projects within the Columbia River National Scenic Area.

In working with your staff and other partner agencies, it was clear that trying to develop a list of priority projects, would require more staff time than was reasonably available and would not be flexible enough to identify both immediate and long-term transportation needs. The value based process for seeking support would allow critical transportation projects to proceed in a timely manner without compromising consistency with the Management Plan.

Transportation planning is being completed by state, regional, and local agencies. Project priorities are developed based on these transportation plans. By providing the Gorge Commission Executive Director authority to endorse projects, the Gorge Commission can become a partner in enhancing the transportation system while protecting the National Scenic area.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in cooperation to meet the transportation needs of the Columbia River Gorge. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you in providing a process for agencies to seek the Commission support towards implementing critical transportation needs.

Sincerely,

Matt Ransom
Executive Director