

Columbia River Gorge Commission
57 NE Wauna Avenue
White Salmon, Washington 98672

June 26, 2020

Dear Commissioner's,

I represent the Port of The Dalles as a Port Commissioner and additionally represent the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport, Columbia Gorge Community College, and The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce.

It's most interesting to note that the City of The Dalles had its beginnings many years ago as the terminus of the Oregon Trail. When a pioneer reached The Dalles he or she had two choices: if they had money they could hire the building of a raft to continue their journey west by river, if not they were forced to drag their wagons over the Barlow Trail, a pretty arduous and difficult path to continue their westward journey.

I have lived here in The Dalles for nearly 19 years, most of it spent operating an automobile dealership here in the community. I am very familiar with the business needs of the Gorge. The original Act called for encouraging growth and development that would be consistent with good and appropriate use of the land. I was encouraged several years ago when I heard that the CRG Commission was discussing a process that would allow urban areas to expand, but am now disappointed by the released draft management plan that seems instead to set a no growth policy.

People want to live here and own property at reasonable prices. Affordable worker housing continues to be an ongoing challenge, as is the need for industrial land to allow our local companies to continue to grow and prosper. All of this is about jobs and economic success and well-being for the people that reside in the Gorge. The opportunity for Urban Areas to expand and allow our community to grow and develop in an appropriate manner needs to be included in this management plan update. I hope that you will move the urban area boundary revision discussion to a later date and continue to work on revised language that supports the local economies of the Gorge.

Sincerely,

David A. Griffith
Port Commissioner
The Dalles, Oregon