

[Email received 6/22/20 from Celinda Labrousse, celindalabrousse@gmail.com]

Dear Gorge Commission Members,

First, thank you for taking on the hard task of keeping a national landmark safe. The Gorge is beautiful because of the combined efforts of people like you and us that care about making sure its beauty is there for our kids.

Second, there is a greater threat to the Gorge than ever before. Because of the placement of the urban growth boundaries by your predecessors, The Dalles has not been able to grow with the times. We have had tear down schools to make room for housing. We have had to leave buildings condemned because we cannot rebuild them into usable space. We have been denied basic civil conveniences such as city sewer and water because our house is on the wrong side of the street. Our population has doubled in the last 5 years and more people keep coming, but because there is no land housing prices have soared past the point most people can reasonably pay for them. Even access to law enforcement is limited by the gorge commission. If a wild animal was to attack a family rescue wouldn come for at least twenty minutes. All of these problems could be solved if the city was allowed to grow, but without your support we will remain an island on the land. We do not want to diminish the beauty of this place. I think that there can be a balance, just like how Hood River is allowed to grow its boundary back towards the fields of Mt. Hood, so too The Dalles should be allowed to grow back towards central Oregon away from the river and extending the town in a safe and environmentally friendly way. Please support our cities growth before the growing population expands places up and down the river instead of back and up into the plains. Please support The Dalles' growth up and back to protect both the Gorge and the people that call it home.

Thank you,
Celinda Labrousse