

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

April 25, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER grant application for Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge supports the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) efforts to seek TIGER funding to construct the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail between Viento State Park and Perham Creek in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. This funding, leveraged with funding already committed to this project, will provide Oregonians and Gorge visitors' new opportunities to experience the beauty of the Columbia Gorge without using their car.

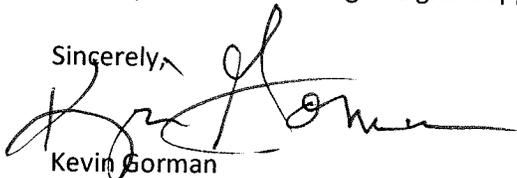
Friends of the Columbia Gorge is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1980 to push for federal protection of the Columbia Gorge. In 1986, Friends helped secure the passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act to create comprehensive Gorge protection consistent across six counties and two states.

Construction and reconnection of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail is a mandate laid out by Congress in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. The Columbia River Gorge Management Plan supports this effort by stating that intact and useable highway segments should be connected with recreation trails to create a continuous route through the Columbia River Gorge that links local, state and federal recreation sites."

This project takes us one step closer to the vision laid out by Congress and President Ronald Reagan. This segment extends the existing trail system between Wyeth Campground and Perham Creek, a 7.5 mile continuous trail corridor and keeps the momentum as we work with partners at the Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon State Parks, Travel Oregon, and the US Forest Service to complete the remaining segments of the State Trail and fulfill the vision for this magnificent national treasure.

Thank you for considering this grant application.

Sincerely,



Kevin Gorman
Executive Director