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April 1, 2021

Senate Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE, Rm 453
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Wagner and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,
I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Thompson for the past year as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response, and I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Ashley Thompson for appointment to the Columbia Gorge River Commission.

In my position as the public health officer for Wasco, Sherman and Gilliam counties, Dr. Thompson and I have closely collaborated to support a safe working environment in the orchards of the Columbia Gorge region since the start of the pandemic. Dr. Thompson's ability to balance the needs of the agricultural community with the ever evolving science of the pandemic response has been invaluable. She is able to bring disparate personalities together and provide clear, evidence based-guidelines to employers and their staff. It is evident that the growers hold Dr. Thompson in high esteem.

I am certain Dr. Thompson will continue to provide this thoughtful and knowledgeable approach to her work as a member of the Columbia River Gorge Commission, and I strongly encourage her appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MD' followed by a stylized flourish.

Miriam D. McDonell, MD, FACOG