

*Letter to Governor Brown
From
Former Members, Columbia River Gorge Commission*

Governor Kate Brown
State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

March 19, 2021


Dear Governor Brown:

We are former members of the Columbia River Gorge Commission who are writing you on a matter of urgency—your next appointment to the commission. Between us, we represent over one hundred years of service on the commission.

Over the next several years, the commission will create policy in at least three critical areas: climate change; monitoring and enforcement; and, diversity, equity, and inclusion. We know that these issues are important to you, and your appointee will have a significant impact on whether the Commission successfully addresses them. As you know, the commission is composed of twelve voting members, half appointed by the two governors and half by the six counties. There often is tension between these two groups. For instance, half of the county commissions—in Skamania, Klickitat, and Wasco—regularly show antipathy towards the National Scenic Area Act, and their appointees will likely lead the opposition to these policies.

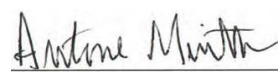
Given this resistance, it is essential that your appointee has a long-term record of supporting conservation issues in the Columbia Gorge or statewide. Two of your current applicants, Deborah Ferrer and Mary Kyle McCurdy, have such a record. Ms. Ferrer has resided in The Dalles for forty-six years, taught high school biology there for over thirty years, and has been active in Gorge issues and politics, serving as the manager of a successful campaign to elect the second woman on the Wasco County Commission. She also chairs Protect Oregon’s Progress, which organizes to protect the rights of immigrants, people of color, and democracy in general. Mary Kyle McCurdy has been an Oregon resident for almost forty years, an attorney with 1000 Friends of Oregon for over thirty years, and—as its Deputy Director—is responsible for overseeing the organization’s urban, working lands, climate, and natural resource policies. At 1000 Friends, Ms. McCurdy has represented tribes, worked to advance diverse and affordable housing and transportation policies, and participated on agency advisory committees.

Having an extensive track record of conservation in the state will allow your appointee to successfully address issues that we all care about, including climate change, monitoring and enforcement, and diversity. Thank you for your consideration.


Anne Squier

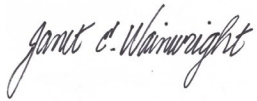

Hon. Barbara Roberts


Kristine Olson


Antone Minthorn


Don Clark


David Robertson



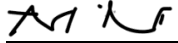
Janet Wainwright



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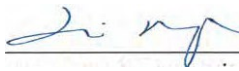
Hon. Don Bonker



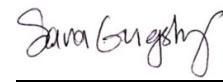
Bridget Bailey



Nancy Hales



Jim Middaugh



Sara Grigsby

cc Gina Zejdlik
 Jason Miner
 Amira Streeter
 See Eun Kim