



Hood River County Board of Commissioners

Jeff Hecksel, County Administrator

COMMISSIONERS

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November 21, 2022

To members of the Oregon Legislature and Washington Legislatures,

This letter is to indicate support by the Hood River County Commission for the Port of Cascade Locks seismic strengthening project on the Bridge of the Gods. The Bridge is a vitally important link for our bi-state region. Since 1926 the Bridge has provided reliable and safe passage for passenger and commercial traffic and has played a key role in helping the Columbia Gorge region develop a strong economy. Located in Cascade Locks the Bridge also enables tourists and visitors to access the world-class recreational attractions of the Gorge.

The Port's project calls for investing 12 million dollars to perform detailed structural analysis of the Bridge focused on improving its resiliency in the event of a major seismic event. This investment will also make it possible to perform some site work to make needed improvements as identified by the analysis, as well as prepare for needed strengthening of the Bridge structure, in preparation for adding a safe passageway for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross over the Columbia River.

The Bridge of the Gods doesn't need to be replaced, it needs targeted strengthening to enable it to continue to provide safe passageway and meet the growing regional transportation needs. The Hood River County Commission believes that the Port's plan is timely and necessary. We encourage the legislatures of Oregon and Washington to each allocate 6 million dollars in funding for this project. In our view this is a modest investment in transportation infrastructure that will produce an excellent return on investment for both states.

Sincerely,

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Karen Joplin, Vice Chair
Hood River County Board of Commissioners