



March 20, 2023

Chair Kayse Jama
Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Comment on SB 1051-2

Dear Chair Jama,

I am writing as the Executive Director of the Columbia River Gorge Commission, a bi-state compact agency representing Oregon and Washington. I have reviewed the language presented in SB1051-2.

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act was passed by Congress in 1986 to protect the scenic, cultural, natural and recreation resources of the Gorge. This area should be exempt from consideration because it was designated through federal law. It appears that Section 2(3)(a)(C) does already exempt the National Scenic Area (NSA) because it states “areas designated for protection in an acknowledged comprehensive plan pursuant to open spaces, scenic and historic areas and natural resource goals.....” but I wanted to provide this information as a clarification in case there may be questions about how SB1051-2 might apply in the NSA.

The National Scenic Area Management Plan, adopted in October 2020, by the Gorge Commission with Secretary of Agriculture concurrence in February 2021, is the comprehensive bi-state plan that implements the provisions of the NSA Act. ORS 196.107 Legislative findings on management plan states under section (1) that “The Legislative Assembly, considering the recommendations of the Land Conservation and Development Commission, finds that the management plan adopted pursuant to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act achieves on balance the purposes of statewide planning goals adopted pursuant to ORS 197.230.”

If there are any additional clarifications needed about the National Scenic Area Act or its protections, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-713-9623, or by email Krystyna.wolniakowski@gorgecommission.org.

Sincerely,

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski
Executive Director