



March 3, 2025

Senate Committee on Rules

Re: SCR 21 - SUPPORT

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (“Friends”) is a non-profit organization with approximately 5,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (“Gorge”).

Friends requests that the committee support SCR 21, a resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of Multnomah Falls Lodge. Previously, the lodge and the paths leading up to the falls have been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Multnomah Falls drops 620 feet between the upper and lower tiers of the falls, making it the tallest waterfall in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and in the state of Oregon. Its location in the waterfall corridor in the western Gorge, just 30 minutes from Portland, makes it a popular tourist destination. This stunning landmark generates over 2 million visitors annually who come to admire its natural splendor and use the lodge during their visit.

The Multnomah Falls Lodge was constructed in 1925 and designed by Portland architect, A. E. Doyle, on land donated to the City of Portland by Simon Benson and the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company. Now owned by the U.S. Forest Service, the lodge reflects the geology of the Gorge as it was constructed in a “Cascadian” architectural style, using rock types that can be found in the Gorge.

While the lodge originally offered overnight lodging for travelers, renovations have taken place over the years, and it now serves as a day use only site. Visitors today can learn from the interpretive materials at the visitor center, enjoy meals or snacks from the restaurant and café, and purchase souvenirs from the gift shop.

Friends supports SCR 21 and is pleased to see Multnomah Falls Lodge, a treasured location in the Gorge, be honored for its 100th anniversary.

Sincerely,
Madison Kenney
Conservation Organizer