



Senator Chuck Thomsen
900 Court St. NE S-316
Salem, OR 97301

April 10, 2015

OneGorge Coalition
c/o Port of Hood River
1000 E. Port Marina Drive
Hood River, OR 97031

RE: Bi-state Recognition of EMS Certification within the National Scenic Area

Dear Senator Thomsen:

The OneGorge Coalition is a network of private businesses and public agencies in the Columbia River Gorge region working together to advocate for regional priorities. The following participants of the OneGorge Coalition support your efforts to enable full recognition of Washington state EMS certifications in Oregon, within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

This bi-state recognition of EMS certifications would benefit Oregon communities along the Columbia River in significant ways. First, it would alleviate an unnecessary financial burden placed on EMS personnel in our neighboring Washington communities to perform their life-saving duties in Oregon. Secondly, it would lower costs for operating primarily volunteer EMS services in both States. Lastly, this action would provide for more uniform safety and emergency response coverage for communities and Gorge activities.

Since the Gorge is a bi-state region, our communities are often confronted with situations where the river becomes a dividing line, and policy disconnects are created in neighboring communities that just do not make sense. This is one of those instances, and we sincerely appreciate your help in correcting this discordant policy issue.

Thank you,
The Undersigned, facilitated by OneGorge

GORDON ZIMMERMAN



Paul Koch
Paul Koch, Interim General Manager
Port of Cascade Locks



Gordon Zimmerman, City Administrator
City of Cascade Locks



Michael S. McElwee
Michael S. McElwee, Executive Director
Port of Hood River



Maria Foley

Maria Foley, Executive Director
Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce

Cheryl L Park



Cheryl Park
Ascendente Winery

Pat Albaugh



Pat Albaugh, Executive Director
Skamania County Economic Development Council

Joyce Brake



Joyce Brake, Attorney at Law
Columbia Counsel PLLC

Tamara Kaufman

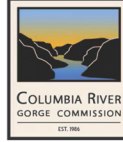
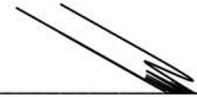
Tamara Kaufman
Board Member, Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce



Mike Foley



Mike Foley, Vice President Operations & Sales
Innovative Composite Engineering, Inc.



Krystyna Wolniakowski
Interim Executive Director, Columbia River Gorge
Commission

Suzanne McNamara

Digitally signed by Suzanne McNamara
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Suzanne R. McNamara
Vice President, Business Development
Insitu, A Boeing Company

David M. Roth

David M. Roth
KCFD #3, Volunteer Fire Fighter
Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce, Board Member
Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

Tammara Toppel

Tammara Toppel, Director of Human Resources
Custom Interface, Inc.



John McSherry



John McSherry
Executive Director, Port of Skamania