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Public Comment for the Upcoming City Council Meeting on April 17, 2025

Marisa Cieloha <marisa312@hotmail.com>

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To: "ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us" <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Mayor Anderson and Stevenson City Council members,

I am writing in support of Lucy Lauser. I wish more people in the world were like Lucy. Lucy has dedicated countless hours and unmeasurable efforts to support her community and all the people within it. Lucy brings people together—whether she is volunteering to cook meals for the community, giving her time at CASS, working to improve the community center, or serving on City Council, Lucy is clearly determined to make Stevenson a better place for all residents. Lucy is an advocate for youth and adults in need and underserved. She stands up for people who are marginalized, unheard, and mistreated.

Lucy lives her life with grace and courage. As a transgender woman, baseless harassment is a daily struggle for her. Many people in this country—and in our Gorge communities—unleash relentless cruelty to anyone that doesn't fit their expectation of gender expression. They make judgements based on outside appearance without getting to know the person inside. Transgender people all around the world face continuous, sustained aggression and disdain simply because they are misunderstood and different. And yes, it happens every day in our Gorge communities, too. It's heartbreaking to see, and soul-crushing to experience.

I hope people leave the meeting tonight with a more comprehensive understanding of who Lucy is as a whole person—a dedicated, caring person with a full heart who loves her town and wants to make it better for everyone in it. Our small, close-knit communities can only thrive with people like Lucy in them. Stevenson is lucky to have her.

Thank you for your time.

Your neighbor,

Marisa Cieloha
she/her
White Salmon