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Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler  
2352 Rayburn HOB  
Washington DC 20515

June 17, 2020

Regarding: Bridge of Gods Bike/Pedestrian Pathway

Dear Congresswoman Beutler,

Port of Skamania County Commissioners addressed the Bridge of the Gods Bike/Pedestrian Pathway during their June 16, 2020 commission meeting and directed me to send this letter of support for the Bridge of the Gods Bike/Pedestrian Pathway on their behalf. The Port Commissioners unanimously agreed the significant public benefit of adding a pedestrian and bike pathway to the Bridge of the Gods outweigh the Port's general opposition for exemptions of title 23, United States Code.

The Bridge of the Gods is a vital part of Skamania County's transportation system. This is the only bridge from our county across the Columbia River and our only access to the interstate Highway System. Adding a dedicated bicycle/pedestrian lane to the bridge will greatly improve public safety and will be a regionally significant asset to be enjoyed by area residents and visitors for decades. In the last decade there have been millions of dollars invested in bicycle/pedestrian pathways in both Washington and Oregon and this dedicated lane will connect those investments.

As long as tolls are not collected for bicycle and pedestrian use of the bridge we consider those uses outside of their bridge tolling operation. In this specific instance and unique situation we are able to lend our support to the proposed amendment exempting this project from title 23, United States Code. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

J. Pat Albaugh, Executive Director

on behalf of:

Todd Kingston, Commissioner District 3  
Jennifer Taylor, Commissioner District 2  
Ray Broughton, Commissioner District 1