



## **TILLY JANE A-FRAME REHABILITATION PROJECT**

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT**

3.23.16

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is April Donovan. I'm Creative Director and Partner at Blue Collar Agency, a full-service advertising agency located in Hood River, OR. I'm writing on behalf of Blue Collar to document our support of the proposed rehabilitation project plans for the Tilly Jane A-Frame submitted by the Oregon Nordic Club.

Structures like Tilly Jane, Cloud Cap Inn, and Timberline Lodge were established on Mount Hood with the intent to provide people with access to this amazing alpine wilderness. Creative people like John Muir, conservationists like Gifford Pinchot, and leaders like Theodore Roosevelt saw this connection to nature as a treasure, and now it's up to us to continue their vision.

The hike up to the Tilly Jane cabin was literally the very first snowshoe adventure I experienced in my life, after moving from Philadelphia to Oregon in 2006. This began my enduring love affair with the Mount Hood wilderness, and was the first of many outdoor adventures I've enjoyed here.

As someone who has led groups of friends and colleagues on overnight snow trips to Tilly Jane, I can attest that the cabin has an acute ability to serve as an automatic camaraderie-builder and character-builder. I believe it's important to rehabilitate this structure. It provides warm shelter that makes access to the solitude of the north side of Mount Hood possible to people that might never know it otherwise.

I'm personally committed to spreading the word about the Tilly Jane A-Frame so we can protect it and pass along an appreciation for what was saved to the next generation. Preservation is hands-on, and I hope to work with like-minded people who believe in the importance of our shared heritage. I believe that connections with the natural world are weakening as younger generations depend on urban life and technology. It's important for us to emphasize to the youth why spending time in nature is so good for creativity, mental health, and togetherness. Tilly Jane is a great example of a very economic way to connect with oneself, with friends, and with family.

My last visit to Tilly Jane was four weeks ago for a day hike. Upon entering the cabin to warm up and eat lunch, I was amazed by the energy of the place. The vibe is welcoming and friendly. The conversation flowed as we shared laughs and personal stories. I left feeling warm and rejuvenated (not only from the cozy fire), and I feel certain in my heart that this is a place worth preserving.

Tilly Jane has give a lot over the last 77 years and now it's time we all give back.

Thank you,

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