



FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

May 9, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of our 6,000 members in Oregon, Washington and beyond, Friends of the Columbia Gorge enthusiastically supports the efforts of the Oregon Nordic Club to improve the Tilly Jane A-Frame. Located just north of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area on the flanks of Mt. Hood, this historic lodging facility provides locals and visitors alike a memorable outdoor experience to enjoy the beauty of this region.

More people are moving to the Portland-Vancouver area because of the opportunities for recreation. Access to the Tilly Jane A-Frame is never been more important than now, when we're experiencing more and more recreation year-round. Creating multi-day outdoor experiences is important in dispersing recreationalists.

A public facility like the Tilly Jane A-Frame serves the surrounding communities through tourism dollars. Supporting these communities during the shoulder season is especially important and is part of our mission.

Lastly, it's important to restore and maintain historic buildings for their cultural heritage. This is an iconic building on Mt Hood that has served visitors for generations and we hope for many more.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is a 36-year old non-profit organization founded to push for federal protection of the Columbia River Gorge. In 1986, Friends helped secure the passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act to create comprehensive Gorge protection across six counties and two states.

The Tilly Jane A-Frame is a Pacific Northwest treasure that deserves to be maintained.

Sincerely,

Kevin Gorman
Executive Director
Friends of the Columbia Gorge
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