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**Connecting the Canyon for
Business and Community Growth**

December 4, 2019

Re: Oregon Timber Trail

To Whom It May Concern,

The North Santiam Chamber of Commerce and its Board of Directors would like to offer our full support of the Oregon Timber Trail project. We understand that these efforts to develop a state-wide mountain biking trail not only benefits our community, but other communities as well.

One of the goals of our Chamber is to promote economic development and this project will help us expand tourism in the area. Specifically, it will bring tourism dollars to one of our smallest and least advantaged areas, the City of Idanha, which lies just adjacent to where the trail crosses a major highway.

Currently, the City of Idanha has a small, very low income population. Two decades ago, it was a thriving logging town. Then forest use regulations changed. Since, the community members have had significant challenges in transforming their economy to the tourism sector, despite being surrounded by thousands of miles of beautiful and scenic landscapes.

The Chamber believes that it is time for Idanha to shine. We believe that your help with the Oregon Timber Trail would have a large impact on the summer income for the businesses in town. In fact, the trail has already made a difference at the Idanha Country Store, where visiting mountain bikers stop to resupply. Broader exposure and development of this trail system would further increase that impact.

For the first time in a long time, this community is finally on the radar. Recently, major efforts at the county level are working to bring updated infrastructure to Idanha. We have found, as with the rest of our small towns, that one project brings the next, and so on. Your investment in this trail system would add to that enthusiasm for both visitors and residents.

Beyond that, the Oregon Timber Trail offers another reason for people to drive our most important community thoroughfare, Highway 22, which meanders through the rest of our small towns. Along this route, there are a multitude of restaurants, lodging, community events and viewpoints that would benefit from the additional traffic from those heading to the trail system.

Finally, we want to thank the trail developers and their volunteers, sponsors and supporters for their dedication to this cause.

Sincerely,
Michelle Gates
Chamber Liaison
North Santiam Chamber of Commerce