



June 29, 2010

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

Please accept this letter of support for the Port of Skamania County in their efforts to restore the shoreline along the Columbia River in Stevenson, Washington. The impacts of this project will not only improve the ecological environment and foster recreational opportunities; they will also provide a much needed boost to the local economy.

The Columbia River Gorge is home to some of the best windsurfing and kiteboarding in the world. The dramatic beauty of the surroundings coupled with unparalleled water and wind conditions bring people from around the world to enjoy what no other place on earth can offer. The Gorge is truly Mecca for windsurfers and Stevenson even more so for kiteboarders. However, due to poor river access, the community of Stevenson has been unable to take full advantage of these unique qualities. The railroad blocks river access throughout much of Skamania County and Stevenson offers one of the few launch areas that does not require dangerously (and illegally) crossing the railroad tracks. Unfortunately the current river access in Stevenson is small and treacherous. A precarious and dangerously steep bank must be traversed in order to reach this area that is large enough to safely allow launching of only one person at a time.

Tourism is an extremely important economic driver for both the City of Stevenson and Skamania County. Recreational tourism through activities such as kiteboarding and windsurfing is vital in order for our communities to thrive. Restoration of the riverbank with a safe and open launch area together with an open and stable path will be a great asset for everyone who uses the river in Stevenson and will increase visitation accordingly. The Skamania County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to fully commend and support the Port of Skamania County for taking on this much needed project.

Warm regards,

Casey Roeder
Executive Director