



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

July 14, 2009

The Honorable Theodore Kulongoski
Governor of the State of Oregon
State Capitol, Room 160
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301-4047

RE: Request for Designation of Oregon Solutions Project: Gateway Green

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

The purpose of this letter is to request your designation of the Gateway Green project in East Portland as an Oregon Solutions Project.

For the past three years a growing number of stakeholders have been looking at the open space development potential for the highly visible but underutilized area bounded by the I-84 and I-205 freeways near the Gateway Regional Center. This thirty-five acre property has the potential of being linked to other undeveloped open spaces on the flanks of Rocky Butte immediately to the west of I-205. All of these properties are in various public ownerships, but the immediate focus area is on the right-of-way area currently managed by ODOT. Recent surveys have identified this neighborhood as being the most open space deficient neighborhood in the Metro area. In addition, advocates of this project view it as a potential catalyst development for the Gateway Urban Renewal Area that is in need of stimulus activity.

Several public forums on this project idea have generated a great deal of enthusiasm and participation by a large number of agencies, non-profit organizations, private enterprises, and neighborhood representatives. These interests have led to the creation of a new organization, "Friends of Gateway Green" (501(c)(3) in formation) which has thus far taken the lead in bringing stakeholders together to pursue a vision for this property.

Recent discussions between the potential lead agencies have led us to the Oregon Solutions Program as an ideal fit for leading a collaborative effort to bring the project vision to fruition. Key to this process will be the identification of project capital and

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operations and maintenance funding. The City of Portland Parks and Recreation Department has agreed to become the "lead" agency for purposes of negotiating a property use agreement with ODOT provided that other stakeholders can assist in identifying the necessary resources to make the project successful. Several important stakeholders have indicated strong interest in helping to obtain the necessary funding commitments.

This project supports Oregon's Sustainable Community Objectives in all three of the program areas—Economy, Community, and Environment. Your support, demonstrated by this designation, would be especially helpful in bringing the various stakeholders to the table and achieving a vision that already has a strong foundation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Nick Fish
City of Portland



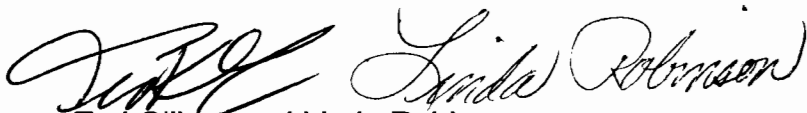
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