



CITY OF TROUTDALE

"Gateway to the Columbia River Gorge"

December 24, 2003

Governor Ted Kulongoski
254 State Capitol.
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Governor Kulongoski,

I am writing to express my personal support for the proposed Warm Springs casino in Cascade Locks. Economic development is a priority right now for all of us. The small communities that make up the Columbia Gorge and the East Multnomah County region have been especially hard hit by the recent recession. Expanding the job base in this region is of critical concern to the state and our area. You have indicated publicly that you are seriously considering the proposal by the Warm Springs Tribes to build a resort/casino in Cascade Locks. I have seen the economic impact study done by EconNW which indicates that more than 1,000 quality jobs would be created by this one project. These jobs would be year-round and help jump start the fledgling tourism-based economy in our area. It would stimulate other private investment and bring increased wealth to the western Gorge. It would help re-establish the Gorge as the preeminent tourist destination in Oregon for tourists from around the country and the world.

Our economic future in Troutdale and the entire western Gorge is tied to tourism. I urge you to make a prompt and favorable decision to allow the Warm Springs to build this project in Cascade Locks. This endorsement is a personal one. The city council has not taken a position on the project, so I am not speaking for the city or the council. I personally support it because it moves an entire region forward in our struggle to create jobs and promote economic development.

With best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paul Thalhofer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Paul Thalhofer
Mayor