



## SKAMANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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### Press Release For Immediate Release

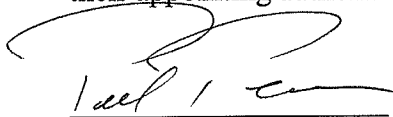
The Skamania County Board of Commissioners wishes to express outrage at the letter recently submitted to Jay Manning, Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology, by two rogue Columbia River Gorge Commissioners. They are attempting to derail the ongoing legislative process of the Gorge Commission on the Broughton Landing plan amendment. In addition, there is clear collusion with the Friends of the Gorge legal staff in the drafting of this letter.

This letter from Gorge Commissioners Middaugh (appointee of the Multnomah County Commissioners) and Sheffield (appointee of the Washington State Governor) is attached in electronic format. The letter alleges that there is contamination at the Broughton Site that must be investigated and cleaned up, apparently before the plan amendment is considered. The contamination allegation comes from an administrative report that the old mill site "may" have contamination and redevelopment of the site would, through the normal permitting process, allow for mitigation of this "potential" contamination.

This is a blatant attempt to derail a lengthy public legislative process through the use of administrative enforcement action, especially when these Commissioners use their official capacity to make demands.

As you will see, the most disturbing part of the electronic letter is that we received it with Microsoft Word "track changes" turned on. When viewing\* it we found that a majority of the changes/edits were performed by Rick Till and Nathan James Baker, both legal staff of the Friends of the Gorge.

This collusion with the Friends of the Gorge, who are the most vehement opponent to the project, is without precedent and must be addressed. The remaining members of the Gorge Commission as well as Chair Condit must take a strong leadership role in denouncing this collusion. The Commission should censor and disallow Commissioners Middaugh and Sheffield from further participation in the matter of the Broughton Plan Amendment. Further, we call for the immediate dismissal of these commissioners by their appointing authorities.

  
Paul Pearce  
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Jim Richardson

  
Jamie Tolfree

\*To view track changes, requires Microsoft Word 2000 or higher. Edit authors are found by holding cursor over edit.