

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 7, 2021

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP); Mt. Hood Summit Rest Area

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write in support of the current Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant application to examine relocation of the Mt. Hood Summit Rest Area on Highway 26 east of the community of Government Camp. The application was submitted on behalf of more than two dozen organizations working closely with the U.S. Forest Service, the State of Oregon, and Oregon Solutions.

The current rest area was established in the 1950s at a time of significantly different use and traffic volumes. Today, recreationists, travelers, and commercial truck traffic can no longer use the facility safely due to congestion and overuse. Government agencies, neighbors, community organizations, and the private sector have recently come together to examine new ways to address these needs. A study that examines the feasibility of a move and that offers design concepts is needed to advance this important work.

Utilization of FLAP funds, matched by funds from the State of Oregon, is a timely and appropriate investment as a wide community of agencies, interests, and citizens chart next steps for creating a safer, more functional, and sustainable highway rest area—and overall transportation vision for the Mt. Hood region.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the Mt Hood/Government Camp Rest Area FLAP application. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ree Armitage in Senator Wyden's Office at 503-477-0306, Dan Mahr in Senator Merkley's Office at 503-201-4709 and Liv Brumfield in Congressman Blumenauer's Office at 503-231-2300.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
U.S. Senator



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

CC: Neal Christensen, Western Federal Lands Highway Division