



November 28, 2016

David Schumacher, Director  
Office of Financial Management  
PO Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Re: Contingency Planning for Agency Operations on July 1, 2017

Dear Mr. Schumacher,

The Columbia River Gorge Commission is a bi-state compact agency, established by Congress, and works in both Oregon and Washington. As per the bi-state agreement, we receive state funds equally from each state through the legislative appropriations process each biennium. If one state fails to pass an appropriations budget by July 1, 2017, the Gorge Commission staff will have to halt all work in both states immediately which will also impact the work that is approved and funded by the other state.

A letter will be issued to all employees of the Gorge Commission 10 working days prior to July 1, 2017 to officially notify them that if a budget is not passed by July 1, 2017, they will be placed on emergency leave without pay (LWOP) until a budget is passed. Their PEBB benefits will continue, but they may be eligible for unemployment if the emergency LWOP extends beyond one week.

Once the state has approved the budget, staff will return to work on the next scheduled work day.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krystyna U. Wolniakowski".

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Executive Director  
Columbia River Gorge Commission