



March 29, 2016

KATE BROWN
Governor

Sarah Sullivan
Executive Director, Gorge Grown Food Network
203 2nd Street
Hood River, OR 97031

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

I am pleased that the Gorge Food Security Coalition concept has asked to be designated as an Oregon Solutions project. After reviewing the assessment conducted by Oregon Solutions staff, I feel this project supports Oregon's Sustainable Community Objectives. Therefore, I am designating it an Oregon Solutions project and selecting Ken Bailey, Vice-President and Shareholder, Orchard View Farms and a Regional Solutions Committee member, and Mark Thomas, Director of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care, Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, as co-conveners.

The co-conveners will lead a team of stakeholders and community members from Hood River, Klickitat, Skamania, Sherman, and Wasco Counties to create a coalition that will work collaboratively in mapping current services in the food system landscape; identify gaps in the system; and align, identify, and/or design new, more effective ways to fill those gaps and serve the entire food system, from producers to consumers. The aim is to decrease hunger and increase access to quality food in the Columbia River Gorge.

I expect this proposed coalition will explore opportunities to connect to, align with, and support the existing work of two previous Oregon Solutions projects; Bridges to Health (Declaration of Cooperation signed May 2014) and the Wasco County Community Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Obesity (Declaration of Cooperation signed May 2015).

This project is a positive opportunity to move forward together. Success will depend on the connection and active collaborative among non-profit, private, and public sectors on the ground in the Columbia Gorge. Please keep the Governor's office updated on this effort and thank you for your work and enthusiasm thus far.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown

cc: Ken Bailey, co-convener
Mark Thomas, co-convener
Steve Greenwood, Oregon Solutions Director

KB:lh

