



# City of Portland

## Design Commission

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May 6, 2011

Governor John Kitzhaber  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court St.  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Governor Christine Gregoire  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: Columbia River Crossing

Dear Governors Kitzhaber and Gregoire,

As members of the Portland Design Commission, we are writing this letter to urge you to appoint a bi-state review committee to provide design oversight for the Columbia River Crossing as the project moves forward. The successful design of the Columbia River Crossing is critical to the healthy and vibrant development of our region, and it is imperative that the project is well integrated with its surroundings in terms of urban design, land use planning and environmental considerations. Additionally, the bridge itself demands a level of design excellence that reflects the importance of its role as a gateway to the states of Washington and Oregon and the magnificence of its natural setting along the Columbia River.

An appointed design review committee can greatly assist the project in the following areas:

- Help to develop the language for the Request for Proposal package for the bridge design, including designer qualifications and scope of work.
- Assist in the review of submitted proposals from potential project designers.
- Meet on a regular basis to review the project's progress, considering overall and place-specific design as well as bridge design, and hold the project accountable to adopted design standards and guidelines.

In 2007, the Mayors of Portland and Vancouver appointed members of the respective cities to become part of the Urban Design Advisory Group to the Columbia River Crossing. Since that time members of the UDAG have devoted many volunteer hours to the project, including the development of project design guidelines, which were never formally adopted. We recommend that these design guidelines be formally adopted and be used as a basis for review of the project. Given the degree that UDAG members have been involved in the project to date, it makes sense that the design committee be composed both of UDAG members willing to continue on in that role, as well as professionals from environmental, architectural, planning, engineering and other related design fields and developers representing both states to round out the panel.

We see evidence every month that the Portland Design Commission helps projects in Portland to become better versions of themselves through the process of review and accountability. We believe that a similar type of process can greatly benefit the Columbia River Crossing as well, helping it achieve the public support it needs, and aiding in its becoming a well designed and well used amenity, sensitively knitted into its surroundings and enjoyed for generations, building upon the character of the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you for your consideration.



Gwen Millius, Chair  
Portland Design Commission

cc: Portland Mayor Sam Adams  
Portland City Commissioners: Dan Saltzman, Randy Leonard, Amanda Fritz, Nick Fish,  
Paul Scarlett, Director of BDS  
Portland Design Commissioners: Gwen Millius, Jan Hansen, Ben Kaiser, David Wark, David  
Keltner, Andrew Jansky, Katherine Schultz  
Tim Heron, BDS Staff, Portland Design and Landmarks Commission