



For Immediate Release

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Opportunity Opens for Hood River County Representative on Economic Development Fund

The Columbia River Gorge Oregon Investment Board (OIB) is seeking candidates interested in serving on the OIB in a position representing Hood River County. The Board is responsible for providing grants and loans to advance economic development interests on the Oregon side of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. The Board sets policies, provides oversight for the economic development National Scenic Area funds managed by Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, analyzes loan and grant requests and participates in the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Advisory Council. The seven member Board includes two representatives from each of the three Oregon counties in the National Scenic Area (Wasco, Hood River and Multnomah counties) and one at-large representative.

The current position is held by Jack Miller, who will be completing his second term on the board and is therefore ineligible to seek reappointment. Jack notes that his service on the board has been rewarding. He states, "As a member of the board, I have had an opportunity to review financing requests from many hard working entrepreneurs and businesses growing the economy of the region. From small start-ups to expanding businesses, the OIB programs provide a unique resource for businesses in the National Scenic Area. The board plays a key role in determining how to ensure those funds are used to support the entire region. The OIB board is at the core of community involvement because small business is the core of our community."

Desired qualifications for a new board member include: background in finance or economic and community development; residence in Hood River County; and an interest in the future of economic development for the region.

In order to apply, candidates are asked to submit an interest form, statement of interest and resume by 5 p.m. on May 30, 2019 for consideration of appointment. Interest forms are available electronically at www.mcedd.org/oib.htm or at the office of Mid-Columbia Economic Development District at 515 East Second Street in The Dalles, Oregon, 97058. This position is a non-paid position with equal voting privileges on the Board.

All interest forms will be reviewed and provided to the Hood River County Board of Commissioners for recommendation of appointment. Appointments are made by the Governor and are for a three year term. For more information on the Columbia River Gorge Oregon Investment Board, visit www.mcedd.org/oib.htm or call 541-296-2266.

In 1986, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act established a bi-state, six-county region shared by the states of Oregon and Washington. In conjunction with this Act, Congress earmarked \$5 million each for Oregon and Washington for the purpose of making economic development loans and grants. The OIB is responsible for the

administration of the Oregon Economic Development Plan, within Multnomah, Hood River, and Wasco, the Oregon counties lying in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Mid-Columbia Economic Development District provides administration for the program.

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