

11/20/2021

To Westfir City Council;

Re: Letter of Support for TransCascadia Excursions' Development Proposal

Although I am not a Westfir citizen, I serve the city as a police officer and hope the Council will consider this letter of support.

I met Jessi & Nick Gibson soon after they opened TransCascadia Excursions. Over time, I have come to know them personally. The Gibson's are quite frankly some of the nicest people I've ever met, and their increased presence would be an asset to the community. I have used their shuttle service for mountain biking (along with 5 of my friends who were visiting from out of town) and have also frequented their business many times just to eat and enjoy the fun and inclusive atmosphere they have created.

In my opinion, expanding TransCascadia would *truly* put Westfir "on the map" insofar as being a mountain biking *destination*. It would bring business to the community, not only for TransCascadia, but for all the other local restaurants as well.

I also read some of the other letters residents have submitted thus far and wanted to address some of the concerns voiced in those letters. The primary concern I noticed was potential noise pollution. While MBO may create a lot of noise due to its size, amplified music, etc., the overnight camping envisioned by TransCascadia is much lower impact and would not be the ongoing "rowdy party" some citizens fear. The sport of mountain biking just does not attract that type of crowd and frankly is not conducive to heavy drinking & partying, because biking with a hangover just doesn't work.

Another concern was a possible increase in crime. In my 5 years working for the Oakridge Police Department, I cannot recall a single case of a mountain biker being arrested for committing a crime. But if they did, OKPD would respond, day or night.

Another concern raised by citizens which surprised me was that mountain biking is a predominately "male" sport. That *may* have been true a few decades ago, but in my experience participating in the sport and from spending a lot of time at TransCascadia, this is certainly no longer the case. I've been there when women riders *far* outnumbered men, not to mention the fact that roughly half their staff is female.

Sincerely,



-James M. Cleavenger, JD, LLM

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