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November 19, 2001

Governor Vic Atiyeh
519 S.W. Park Ave., Suite 208
Portland, OR 97205.

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Governor Atiyeh

Dear Governor:

I write to thank you for your advocacy with the Meyer Memorial Trust regarding our grant request to them for the Tillamook Forest Interpretive Center. I'm sure your contact was helpful to their board's understanding of the center and its goals. Unfortunately, I regret to report that the Meyer Trust has turned down our request. While the Meyer Board does not provide any reason for the decisions they take, my guess is that the issue revolved around the public essence of the project—that is, the interpretive center will ultimately be a state-owned and operated facility. I would be interested in hearing any feedback you might receive.

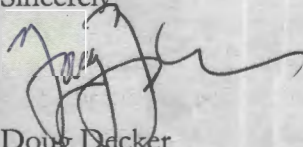
In the good news department, we were successful in obtaining a \$500,000 appropriation from Congress during this last federal fiscal year cycle. This is a helpful boost to the campaign, which now stands at \$4.6 million on our way to \$12.3 million.

The other good news I can report is that we have begun final design and construction documents for the Smith Homestead Day Use Area component of the project. Among other excellent natural and cultural history opportunities available for visitors to the site, the Smith Homestead facility will also provide the first and only public restroom facilities on the Wilson River Highway, which will ensure the site's popularity. It's a \$700,000 phase of the project that will demonstrate tangible results and we hope create momentum for our fundraising.

Next on our list of potential funders and donors is the Collins Foundation, which is very warm to the interpretive center idea, U.S. Bank, and the Ford Family Foundation. I welcome any further advice or suggestions you may have.

Thank you again for your help along the way, and your ongoing support of the Tillamook Forest Interpretive Center.

Sincerely,


Doug Decker
Executive Director

R.S. Enjoyed the piece in Sunday's Oregonian and appreciated your insightful comments.

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