



Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
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October 12th, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Letter of Support - Granite Falls Bridge #102 in Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT TIGER Grant program.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954. We have approximately 6000 individual members and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing whitewater paddlers across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. American Whitewater has an interest in conservation of and access to the South Fork Stillaguamish River that supports whitewater recreation.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries Mountain Loop Highway traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. The bridge right-of-way is an important access point for the whitewater paddling community as it serves as the take-out for the whitewater run on Robe Canyon of the South Fork Stillaguamish River, identified as one of the 50 Whitewater Classics of North America.¹ Paddlers from around the world use this access point to experience this challenging expert whitewater run.

We request your consideration and selection of this important project. We have an interest in being engaged in this project as it moves forward given the importance of the site for public access to the river.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas O'Keefe".

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director

¹ Williams, Tyler. 2004. *Whitewater Classics: Fifty North American Rivers Picked by the Continent's Leading Paddlers*. Funhog Press. Flagstaff, AZ.