



Proudly serving our business partners in North Idaho and Eastern Washington

December 14, 2020

To whom it may concern:

**Re: Lower Basin Buildout- Letter of Support**

On behalf of the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce I am writing in support of the Pend Orielle Pedalers' proposal of the Lower Basin Buildout project. As advocates for tourism and business development for the Sandpoint area, we strongly support this grant application.

Currently, Sandpoint is home to five different bike shops and a thriving retail and restaurant sector. As more adventure seekers discover the beauty of Sandpoint, having attractions to keep them here longer and returning for other great experiences, help to support our local economy. Trails are a valuable community asset and attractive destinations for visitors of all ages.

In August 2018 the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce tourism division, Visit Sandpoint, commissioned a study from Headwater Economics on the value of trails on tourism, specifically in Bonner County. The estimate in developing Bonner County's current trails further would likely result in \$750,000 to \$4.5 million in new annual spending by visitors to the area. This spending would then support between 12 and 72 jobs and between \$254,000 and \$1.6 million in personal income each year.

We fully support the Pend Orielle Pedalers receiving these grant funds to help them complete plans for the Lower Basin Buildout project. The improvement and completion of these trails will benefit Sandpoint and surrounding communities.

Should you need further information, please feel free to reach out to me at the number listed below.

Best regards,

***Kate McAlister***

Kate McAlister  
President/CEO  
Great Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce



Administrative Offices and Visitor Center

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