



**“The true meaning of life is to plant trees,  
under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”**

**~Nelson Henderson**

Date

Dear

Trees are the lifeblood of our existence. Not only do they provide us with a livable environment through clean air and clean water, they also connect us to people, places, and events through their historical connections. I would like invite you to support a unique collection of trees – the Oregon Grove of the States. Planted almost 50 years ago, this collection of the state tree from all 50 US states has fallen into disrepair. But you can help bring it back. You have the opportunity to not only improve our environment and be a part of a historic event, but also participate in something so unique that an opportunity like this won't likely come around again in our lifetimes.

**What is the Grove of the States?** Located at the southbound I-5 French Prairie Rest Area, (which is visited by over two million people per year) this public arboretum was conceived by former Attorney General Robert Thornton in 1967. His intent was to honor Lady Bird Johnson's Highway Beautification Act by planting a tree that represented every state in the US.

**Why do we need your help?** The Grove represents Oregon's commitment to a sustainable environment and is a direct connection to thousands of travelers who stop for a stroll underneath its leafy canopy. Over the years the condition of the Grove has been in serious decline, with tree losses due to disease and crowded conditions.

Oregon Travel Experience is now spearheading the restoration of the Grove in time for its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in August 2017. We need your help to reach our goal of \$100,000 to plant replacement trees, restore and expand walking paths, and install new interpretive signs.

**What are the benefits of corporate or individual sponsorship?** Individual and corporate Sponsorships will help sustain Grove of the States for generations to come. Your contribution ensures that your business name is seen by travelers on signs at the entrance of, and within the Grove. This is the first time the State of Oregon has allowed sponsorship signage within a highway rest area.

We will also honor you or your business at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, and dependent on Sponsorship level, include your name and business logo in our event programs, in our social media outlets, and on the OTE website.

We hope that you will join us. If you have any questions, please contact me at 503-373-0864 or Toll-free at 1-800-574-9397. You are also welcome to email me at [anniev@oregonte.com](mailto:anniev@oregonte.com).

Gratefully,

Annie von Domitz  
OTE Heritage & CommunityAssets Manager

*\*Contributions to Oregon Travel Experience are tax deductible under 26 US Code section 170 (c)(1) as they are dedicated to the public purpose of the program. We recommend you consult your tax advisor regarding any limitation on the amount of your contribution.*