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April 19, 2018

The Honorable Anne Schuster
Commissioner
Benton County
P.O. Box 3020
Corvallis, OR 97330

Re: Please Join Us in Celebrating Older Americans Month – May 2018

Dear Commissioner Schuster:

For 55 years, the May observance of *Older Americans Month* has been a time for communities across the country to offer special recognition to older Americans and their contributions to our society. The theme of this year's celebration is "Engage at Every Age," which emphasizes that a person is never too old (or too young) to take part in activities that can enrich physical, mental, and emotional well-being. The month celebrates the many ways older adults make a difference in our communities; they are working, volunteering, mentoring, learning, leading, and engaging.

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) is proud to provide services to approximately 14,827 adults age 60 and older in the Benton County area. *Older Americans Month* offers an opportunity to emphasize how older adults can access the home and community-based services which enable them to live independently in their communities. It is also an occasion to highlight how older adults are making fabulous impacts locally.

As OCWCOG Senior and Disability Services Advisory Council Chairs, we encourage our local elected leaders to continue to support and recognize our older community members by formally adopting an *Older Americans Month* proclamation at your next Commissioner's meeting. A sample is included with this letter to assist in developing a proclamation unique to your jurisdiction.

Additionally, Advisory Council members, along with OCWCOG staff, would be pleased to attend a meeting to participate in the reading of the proclamation, as well as discuss the challenges and successes current to our mission.

If you are interested in a program presentation, proclamation reading, or have any questions, please contact Jennifer Kelley at 541-967-8720 or jkelly@ocwcog.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Daley".

Bob Daley, Chair
Senior Services Advisory Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald".

Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Chair
Disability Services Advisory Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred Abousleman".

Fred Abousleman
Executive Director, OCWCOG

Enclosed:

- Sample Proclamation