TO:

Dominic P. Yballe, US Army Corps of Engineers, Dominic.P.Yballe@usace.army.mil

Anthony G. Lopez, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, alopez@achp.gov

Jessica Gabriel, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Jessica.Gabriel@oregon.gov

CC: Oak Lodge History Detectives, gennutt@gmail.com

Re: Proposed Jennings Lodge Estates Outfall and Subdivision, Section 106 Coordination (**NWP-2016-495**)

I am a resident of the Oak Lodge area and care about protecting the historic Jennings Lodge Campground and the historic structures still standing on the former Evangelical Retreat Center property. This site has been the heart of the Jennings Lodge community for more than 113 years.

It is my understanding the former campground buildings form a historic district eligible to be on the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed Jennings Lodge Estates project would erase all evidence of the former camp meeting site. In fact, the proposed construction would demolish 100% of the historic district. Instead, I believe we need to preserve the local and national significance of this historic site for future generations.

The tall Douglas fir groves on the property are also part of the historic landscape and need to be included as a contributing historic resource as they formed a significant feature of the campground.

I support mitigating measures to offset the proposed damage to the historic heart of the Jennings Lodge community. Mitigation should include keeping and restoring Millen Auditorium, Freisen Chapel, and Ballantyne Ministry Building (the former Koehler Education Building) on the property for community use. The surrounding fir groves should also remain, together with the buildings, in a 3.0-acre park on the property’s western perimeter. I would also like to see Fogg Cottage along Jennings Ave. preserved and restored, and five interpretive markers established on the preserved portions of the property.

Oak Lodge History Detectives has asked for these and other mitigating measures, and I support all of them. Therefore, I ask the State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to not approve the drafted memorandum of understanding on the plan for the property’s historic resources unless it includes provision for saving these buildings and the fir groves in a park.

Sincerely,

[Your name]