

**Testimony of Randy Tucker, Legislative Affairs Manager  
In Support of Senate Joint Memorial 10  
House Rural Communities, Land Use and Water Committee  
April 28, 2015**



Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

As you know, Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area. The voters of the region created Metro specifically to address issues that are regional in nature rather than local and to deal with challenges that cross city and county lines. While Metro is typically recognized for its role in setting the urban growth boundary and coordinating the region's investments in transportation, Metro is also concerned about the historic, cultural and natural significance of Willamette Falls and its contribution to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the surrounding area.

Metro urges your adoption of Senate Joint Memorial 10, which calls for the federal government to designate a Willamette Falls National Heritage Area under the National Park Service, repair and reopen the Willamette Falls Locks and Canal under the Army Corps of Engineers and direct federal agencies to facilitate the revitalization of sites such as the Willamette Falls Legacy Project. Together, the Heritage Area, the Locks and the Legacy Project represent an opportunity to create a world class destination. This area is famed as both a significant gathering place for Native Americans and the birthplace of U.S. civilization on the west coast.

Last year the Metro Council adopted Resolution 14-4576, which urges the reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks. I have submitted that resolution with this testimony. As you may know, Metro has also been deeply involved as one of the public partners leading the Willamette Falls Legacy Project, which is working to provide public access to Willamette Falls and convert the shuttered Blue Heron paper mill to an economic asset for the region.

It is important to show the federal government that there is widespread support for this initiative in order for them to take action. To date, numerous jurisdictions, tribes and interest groups have adopted statements of support. By passing SJM 10, the Oregon Legislature can demonstrate that this effort is a priority for the State of Oregon.

I urge you to support SJM 10. Thank you very much for considering these comments.