

**Enrolled**  
**Senate Joint Memorial 10**

Sponsored by Senators OLSEN, DEVLIN; Senator THATCHER, Representatives BARTON, KENNEMER, LININGER, PARRISH, POST, REARDON

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the proposed Willamette Falls National Heritage Area includes Willamette Falls, historic areas of Lake Oswego, West Linn and Oregon City and the Willamette River communities up to Willamette Mission State Park, sites with nationally significant landscapes and American historic value; and

Whereas the proposed area is an important nexus of geologic phenomena resulting from the Missoula Floods, being the site where the Willamette Meteorite was found and home to the unmatched fertility of the Willamette Valley; and

Whereas the proposed area was a significant gathering place for fishing and trade among numerous peoples for centuries prior to white settlement; and

Whereas the Willamette Falls and Willamette River have been and continue to be important hubs for trade, transportation, commerce and recreation; and

Whereas the proposed area includes the Champoege State Heritage Area, where the first American-style government west of the Rocky Mountains was created on May 2, 1843, establishing a strong American claim to settle the "Oregon Question" and eventually resulting in the securing of United States boundaries "from sea to shining sea"; and

Whereas the 2,000-mile journey of the Oregon Trail ended at Oregon City, making it a destination point for one of the largest overland migrations in human history; and

Whereas Oregon City was the first capital of the Oregon Territory and the first United States city west of the Rocky Mountains to be incorporated; and

Whereas the power of the Willamette Falls served as a catalyst for industry in the American West, powering early sawmills and eventually generating hydropower for the world-famous Oregon City Woolen Mills, two paper mills and the oldest extant multilift bypass navigation locks for commercial traffic in the United States; and

Whereas the first long distance transmission of electricity in the United States occurred at Willamette Falls, sparking a revolution in American commerce and way of life; and

Whereas pig iron from Lake Oswego's iron smelters helped build infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest and attracted workers from across the nation after the Civil War; and

Whereas for over half a century the Willamette Falls area was a significant hub of government, commerce, industry, transportation and United States authority on the Pacific coast; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

- (1) The Congress of the United States of America is respectfully urged to:
  - (a) Pass legislation to create the Willamette Falls National Heritage Area;
  - (b) Appropriate funds necessary to restore and open the Willamette Falls Locks to once again bring upriver navigation and commerce to the communities along the Willamette River; and
  - (c) Direct the United States Department of the Interior and other appropriate federal agencies to facilitate the revitalization of the proposed Willamette Falls National Heritage Area to serve as

a historic, cultural, educational and economic asset for the betterment of the people of Oregon and the citizens of the United States.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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Adopted by Senate April 2, 2015

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House May 6, 2015

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House