

# Senate Joint Memorial 10

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

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to designate Willamette Falls and surrounding communities as National Heritage Area.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United  
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

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

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

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

13 Whereas the proposed area was a significant gathering place for fishing and trade among nu-  
14 merous peoples for centuries prior to white settlement; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 Whereas pig iron from Lake Oswego's iron smelters helped build infrastructure in the Pacific

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Northwest and attracted workers from across the nation after the Civil War; and

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

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

5 (1) The Congress of the United States of America is respectfully urged to:

6 (a) Pass legislation to create the Willamette Falls National Heritage Area;

7 (b) Appropriate funds necessary to restore and open the Willamette Falls Locks to once again  
8 bring upriver navigation and commerce to the communities along the Willamette River; and

9 (c) Direct the United States Department of the Interior and other appropriate federal agencies  
10 to facilitate the revitalization of the proposed Willamette Falls National Heritage Area to serve as  
11 a historic, cultural, educational and economic asset for the betterment of the people of Oregon and  
12 the citizens of the United States.

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

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