

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 256
Ways & Means Subcommittee on Trade and Economic Development
Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Association of Oregon Counties is highly supportive of SB 256 and its authorization to establish a Willamette Falls Locks Commission to serve as the body to advise state, local and regional agencies on the development and implementation of policies related to the repair, reopening, operation and maintenance of the Willamette Falls navigation canal and locks.

The counties of Clackamas, Marion and Yamhill are highly motivated to work with the other members of the commission to work through the many steps it will take to achieve the vision of a reopened asset to Oregon. We believe the -3 amendments appear to contain the reworked membership on the commission.

Because of the many steps it will take at the federal, state and local level to accommodate the vision of an operating canal and locks, it is appropriate to designate the Oregon Solutions program at Portland State to keep the commission on track. The minimal amount of funding required by the state in this bill (\$190,000) can be used effectively to match contributions from the commission membership in time, expertise and possible additional funding to achieve lasting results.

It would be most appropriate for the commission to make periodic reports to the state and the legislature on issues and actions that will be necessary as we proceed.

We encourage your support of SB 256 and its -3 amendments.