



**Testimony by Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp in Support of SB 256:  
*Establishes the Willamette Falls Locks Commission***

For Public Hearing Scheduled on Feb. 15, 2017, Before the  
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

**To Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Committee:**

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in support of SB 256 that establishes the Willamette Falls Locks Commission as the policy-making and advisory body for issues relating to repair, reopening, operation, maintenance and future transfer of ownership of the navigational canal and locks.

The City, as a long-time advocate for reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks, greatly appreciates the efforts of Senators Devlin and Olsen and Representatives Parrish, Kennemer, Lininger and Meek for their sponsorship of this important legislation.

On November 3, 2014, the Wilsonville City Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2496, "Resolution in Support of Reopening the Willamette Falls Locks" that called for creation of an all-inclusive state-chartered body to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a plan for sustainable operations of the Willamette Falls Locks.

The City of Wilsonville has vested interests along with other stakeholders in reopening and sustainably operating the Willamette Falls Locks, which significantly impact the recreational, tourism and commercial economy of the community and the region. Closure of the Locks since 2011 has placed a severe hardship on commercial, recreational and tribal river users, including Wilsonville-area recreationalists and businesses.

Wilsonville Concrete, Inc., and Marine Industrial Construction, LLC, which had used the Willamette Falls Locks for 127 years for transporting aggregate, logs and other goods and conducting dredging and towing operations, has 15–30 jobs that could be impacted if the Locks are not reopened on a permanent basis for the conduct of commerce.

The City of Wilsonville respectfully urges a DO PASS vote on SB 256. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Knapp, Mayor  
City of Wilsonville