



**Testimony by City of Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp Supporting HB 5030:
*Proposed Legislation Funds Ability for State to Re-Open Willamette Falls
Locks, Benefiting Tourism, Commerce and Resilience Goals***

Scheduled for public hearing on April 19, 2019, before the Joint Committee
On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in support of HB 5030, which provides \$7.5 million in lottery proceeds bonding for the repair and eventual reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks. Furthermore, the City supports amending HB 5030 as requested by the Willamette Fall Locks Commission for the full \$14.42 million needed in bond proceeds.

The City of Wilsonville is a founding member of the Willamette Falls Locks Working Group and was one of three Willamette River cities appointed to serve in 2017 on the Willamette Fall Locks Commission by SB 256.

The work of the Commission is critical to maintaining a key river transportation infrastructure of the Locks, which allows passage connecting the lower and upper portions of the Willamette River. In the Draft Disposition Study issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in May 2017 for public comment, the Corps indicated a preference for transfer of the Locks to another entity — or cementing the Locks shut permanently, foreclosing any future options for use.

The Commission’s charge is to recommend a governance structure for a transferee and negotiating with the Corps for transfer of the Locks upgraded to an acceptable state of repair. Passage of HB 5030 sends a strong message of reinforcement to Congress and the federal government that the State of Oregon is serious about maintaining and reopening the 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 area recreationalists and businesses. Wilsonville-based Wilsonville Concrete, Inc., and Marine Industrial Construction, LLC, which used the Willamette Falls Locks for 129 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 an amended HB 5030 as noted above. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Wilsonville