



**WILLAMETTE FALLS & LANDINGS**  
Heritage Area

February 9, 2021

Senator Peter Courtney, Senate President  
Speaker Tina Kotek, House Speaker  
Members of the Oregon Legislature

RE: Support for HB 2564 – Creation of Willamette Falls Locks Authority

The Willamette Falls and Landings Heritage Area Coalition, urges your support for HB 2564. We support the establishment of a new public corporation to provide a means of conveying ownership of the historic Willamette Falls Locks to a state authorized entity responsible for repairing and reopening the Locks. The locks are integral to our National Heritage Area efforts as they are the unifying feature of our recently approved National Park Service feasibility study; the last major hurdle before approaching Congress for a declaration of National Heritage Area status. The Willamette Falls Locks have significant historical, cultural, and industrial heritage that we are poised to celebrate on a national stage.

We need to demonstrate to our Congressional delegation that our 56-river miles of Heritage along the Willamette River is a united waterway with access both above and below the locks. Your support of the repair and reopening of the Willamette Falls navigation canal and locks is key to our National Heritage Area work.

Once this asset is operating, imagine the impact it will have on recreational and heritage tourism, not to mention other areas of commerce, locally, regionally, and nationally. Your support for Willamette Falls Locks ensure we share the natural, cultural, and historic wonder of our heritage area, from Lake Oswego to the upriver areas of French Prairie and Champoeg, bringing great opportunity to Oregon. For these reasons, we urge your support of HB2564

Sincerely,

Jon Gustafson, President  
Willamette Falls and Landings Heritage Area Coalition