

Enrolled
Senate Concurrent Resolution 21

Sponsored by Senator BONHAM (at the request of Chris Willis, General Manager, Multnomah Falls, Co., Inc.)

Whereas the spectacularly beautiful Columbia River Gorge, formed by ancient volcanoes and sculpted by massive floods, is an impressive corridor for the mighty river as it flows through the Cascade Mountains on its way to the Pacific Ocean; and

Whereas stretching for 85 miles through this jaw-dropping natural splendor is the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area; and

Whereas at the heart of the scenic area is magnificent Multnomah Falls, Oregon's tallest waterfall, which drops 620 feet from the cliffs above the Historic Columbia River Highway; and

Whereas in the early 1900s, land around Multnomah Falls was donated to the City of Portland by lumber baron and philanthropist Simon Benson, and further donations were made by the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company under the condition that the city would fund construction of a lodge for visitors; and

Whereas the city commissioned design of the lodge to famed architect Albert E. Doyle, who also designed many other landmark Portland buildings; and

Whereas in 1925, construction on Multnomah Falls Lodge was completed, and the facility was opened to the public with great fanfare; and

Whereas the lodge was constructed by the Shattuck Company for \$40,000 (equivalent to roughly \$700,000 in 2025) in the Cascadian style, using timber and every type of rock naturally found in the Columbia River Gorge; and

Whereas the lodge originally had dormitories and rooms for overnight stays; and

Whereas several significant remodels and additions have occurred over the decades, and the lodge currently offers visitors a restaurant, interpretive center, gift shop, snack bar and other services; and

Whereas ownership of Multnomah Falls Lodge was transferred from the City of Portland to the United States Forest Service in 1939; and

Whereas the lodge was closed during World War II from November 1942 until February 1946; and

Whereas the lodge has escaped numerous natural disasters, including floods, rock falls, landslides and fires, most recently the Eagle Creek Fire in 2017; and

Whereas in 1981, Multnomah Falls Lodge and the surrounding footpaths were added to the National Register of Historic Places; and

Whereas Multnomah Falls and its iconic lodge attract millions of visitors each year from all over the world, making it the most visited natural recreation site in the Pacific Northwest; and

Whereas Multnomah Falls Lodge is a true Oregon treasure; and

Whereas Multnomah Falls Lodge is set to launch another century as a historic landmark that showcases the beauty, history and spirit of adventure of the Columbia River Gorge; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, commemorate the 100th anniversary of historic and iconic Multnomah Falls Lodge; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage all Oregonians to join us in late September 2025 to celebrate this significant public milestone.

Adopted by Senate April 10, 2025

Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House May 14, 2025

Julie Fahey, Speaker of House