



March 3, 2025

Re: Portland Metro Chamber Support for HB 3314

Honorable Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and members of the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water Committee,

The Portland Metro Chamber is proud to submit written testimony in support of HB 3314, which provides funding to address harmful algae blooms in the Ross Island Lagoon.

The Portland Metro Chamber (The Chamber) is greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce and represents the largest, most diverse network of businesses in the region. The Alliance advocates for business at all levels of government to support commerce, community health and the region's overall prosperity. We represent more than 2,200 members, from 27 counties, 13 states and virtually every industry sector. More than 80% of our members are small businesses.

A recurring summer harmful algae bloom threatens Portland's cultural vitality and economic recovery. This is a particularly urgent problem now as renewed public private partnerships have come together to dramatically increase activations and events on the Willamette River and the waterfront as a centerpiece of Portland's economic revitalization strategy. The Willamette River is Portland's backyard making improving the health of the lower Willamette and decreasing the incidence of harmful algal blooms in Ross Island Lagoon help to ensure the river is available for Oregonians to enjoy safely an economic priority.

HB 3314 will support the efforts of Oregon State University, Human Access Project, and a diverse coalition of stakeholders as they work to address the recurring harmful algal blooms in the Ross Island Lagoon and the lower Willamette. The harmful algal blooms threaten water quality, human and animal health, are detrimental to the ecology of the lower Willamette.

The proposed project to restore river flow into the Ross Island Lagoon through the development of a flushing channel represents a science-driven, practical solution to improve water quality and ecological health. Furthermore, this funding is a crucial step toward implementing long-term solutions that will not only benefit fish and wildlife but also protect public health and ensure the Willamette River remains a safe and accessible resource for the community.

For these reasons, the Portland Metro Chamber urges the committee to support HB 3314. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jon Isaacs

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PORTLAND METRO CHAMBER

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