

April 23, 2019

Honorable Fred Girod
Honorable Paul Hovey
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Association of Oregon Counties Supports HB 5030; April 22, 2019 Hearing
Subcommittee on Capital Construction, Joint Ways & Means Committee

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

The legislatively-authorized Willamette Falls Locks Commission has proposed funding of \$14,422,200 from sale of lottery bonding for repair and reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks. HB 5030, Section 10, contains a Governor's Budget request of \$7.5 million; but AOC, involved counties, cities and state legislators all agree that if we are to take full advantage of this opportunities, the \$14 million-plus amount is appropriate and necessary.

Association of Oregon Counties has been a partner with and highly supportive of the work of the Commission's regional effort to capture this opportunity for maintaining and upgrading one of Oregon's most valuable assets as a tourist attraction, and for increased economic development through opening a barging facility and adding moorage sites below the Willamette Falls. Positive impacts from this redevelopment would also affect communities and counties' effort up and down the Willamette.

As the Commission and individual counties, including my own Clackamas County have stated:

"The Locks are of significant historical and cultural value to Native American tribes and Oregonians, with significant engineering importance. In 1974 the Locks were listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1991 listed as a State Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The National Trust for Historic Preservation declared the Locks a National Treasure in 2012. The Locks are an iconic feature of the State Heritage Area, and a draw for cultural and historic tourism, that combine with the natural beauty of the Falls and surrounding area".

AOC encourages your support of Section 10 of HB 5030, but support increased funding for the Willamette Falls Locks effort to the amount of \$14,422,200.

Sincerely,



Martha Schrader, President
Association of Oregon Counties