

From: [Gerald](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: re. House Bill 5030, - Willamette Falls Locks
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2019 11:13:35 AM

I am writing in support of the proposed appropriation of \$14,422,200 for the repair and reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks.

Restoring the connection between the upper and lower river at the Falls is a long overdue project that will bring major economic benefits to the region.

Immediately it will enhance Oregon City and West Linn as tourist destinations, and together with the Falls itself, and the “End of the Trail Museum, go a long way towards creating a “critical mass” tourist destination for both local and out-of-state visitors. Oregon City will likely become the base for local river trips, with spill-over benefits to the local economy.

In the longer term I would expect to see some kind of “River Cruise” activity develop, such as a day long trip between Portland and Salem and beyond, similar to the River Cruises in Europe and in the eastern USA.

It’s often overlooked that not repairing the locks still requires them to be made safe, which will also cost a lot of money, and have no public benefit! And will probably not solve the problem, as there will continue to be calls for repairing the locks as long as they remain unprepared !

So let’s get on with it, before inflation adds even more to the cost.

Gerald Fox