



Willamette Falls Locks  
AUTHORITY

1980 Willamette Falls Dr #120, PMB 195 \* West Linn, OR 97068

Chair Christine Lewis,  
Metro Council

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Treasurer Sandy Carter

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Clackamas County Board Chair

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Clackamas County Tourism  
Development Council

Mini Sharma Ogle,  
PGE

Robert Kentta,  
Confederated Tribes of Siletz  
Indians

Dear Chair Fahey and the Oregon State House Committee on Rules,

The Willamette Falls Locks Authority offers enthusiastic support for HCR 20, in recognition of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Willamette Falls Locks.

The locks were the first significant navigational infrastructure improvement in the United States west of the Rockies, predating the railway. Adjacent to the incredibly beautiful and powerful Willamette Falls, the Locks are an important asset to communities who live along and use the river.

The Locks Authority was created by an act of the Oregon Legislature in 2021 to receive the locks from Army Corps ownership and help author the future chapters of history through repair, upgrades, and operation. The Locks have the potential to once again move commerce and are a significant community asset for recreation, historic interpretation, and culture. When the locks are repaired and operational, the upriver and downriver communities will again be connected as they have been for the majority of our history as a state.

There is widespread community interest in the history of the locks. Our board represents business, government, Tribal, and community voices who all have a stake in voicing our histories and plotting the course for our future at the Willamette Falls Locks. Thank you to the Oregon Legislature for joining as a partner in this work that is so incredibly important to Oregonians who touch and rely on the Willamette River in countless ways.

Sincerely,

Christine Lewis  
Chair, Willamette Falls Locks Authority