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Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

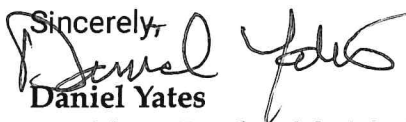
RE: HB 3314

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

The Portland Spirit Cruises and Events owns four passenger vessels in Portland, Oregon, operated for over 30 years, employs about 150 employees, conducts about 1000 cruises annually and is one of Oregon's largest tourism business. The public perception and the reality of the health of the Willamette River are extremely important to the Portland Spirit operation and all other river users. Our State has made impressive progress in cleaning up the Willamette River with the amazing success of the Big Pipe program. It is time to build on the success of that project and solve the next significant health threat that Ross Island Lagoon's algae bloom represents. The Human Access Project (HAP) and Oregon State University (OSU) have combined credible scientific evidence and an aggressive public outreach that has resulted in a reasonable solution to the annual, harmful algae blooms at Ross Island lagoon.

HAP and OSU have been extremely successful in building a coalition of interested parties for crafting a solution and their combined efforts have the credibility to see the proposed solution through to success. Portland Spirit supports House Bill 3314 as it provides critical funding for advancing a solution to this serious health issue.

Portland Spirit supports this effort for several reasons. We need to continue making the river usable by everyone year round. A harmful algae bloom, during our summer season, is terrible for our City's national and international reputation that is in the rebuilding process after a few years of serious negative PR issues. We need to make every effort to keep the river safe for swimming by humans, our pets and our natural resources. In closing Portland Spirit has faith that HAP and OSU are the right combination of skills to get the maximum benefit from resources authorized by HB 3314.

Sincerely,  
  
Daniel Yates

President, Portland Spirit Cruises and Events