



February 26, 2025

Co-Chairs Representative Ken Helm and Representative Mark Owens Oregon House -
Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

Re: Letter of Support for HB3314

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) to express strong support for HB3314 to address water quality improvements in the Ross Island Lagoon and the Willamette River in Portland. The funding request, introduced by Representative Nosse, is essential for mitigating the increasing harmful cyanobacteria blooms (HCB) that pose serious threats to water quality, human health, juvenile salmon populations, and the broader ecosystem of the lower Willamette River.

For years, OMSI has been dedicated to environmental stewardship and advocating for the protection and restoration of our waterways. The Ross Island Lagoon, a historically impacted site due to past excavation and altered river flows, has become a breeding ground for HCB. This issue is particularly concerning given the lagoon's critical role as one of the last remaining shallow-water habitats for juvenile salmon migrating to the ocean. The current conditions, including high pH levels and elevated temperatures, have rendered this vital habitat nearly inaccessible, further stressing already vulnerable fish populations.

The proposed project to restore river flow into the 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.

OMSI is committed to supporting this initiative and recognizes the significance of the requested in funding to advance critical work. Investing in this project is an investment in our environment, public health, and the long-term sustainability of the Willamette River.

We urge you to support this HB3314 and move this vital project toward implementation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Graham', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Erin Graham
President and CEO
OMSI