



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 to express the support of the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, a National Estuary Program, for HB3314 which provides funding to address harmful algal blooms in the Ross Island Lagoon.

The Estuary Partnership is one of 28 estuaries in the nation designated as an “Estuary of National Significance,” created in 1995 by the governors of Oregon and Washington and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Our mission is to improve the lower Columbia River by protecting and restoring ecosystems and enhancing clean water for current and future generations of fish, wildlife, and people. One of the primary focus areas of our Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan is to improve water quality and restore habitat in the lower Columbia and tributaries.

HB3314 will support the efforts of Oregon State University, Human Access Project and a broad group of interested parties as they work to address the recurring harmful algal blooms in the Ross Island Lagoon and the lower Willamette. The harmful algal blooms threaten water quality, human health, and are detrimental to the ecology of the lower Willamette. The Willamette River is Portland’s backyard, improving the health of the lower Willamette and decreasing the incidence of harmful algal blooms in Ross Island Lagoon help to ensure the river is available for Oregonians to enjoy safely far into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support of HB3314 to address water quality at Ross Island Lagoon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Elaine Placido".

E. Elaine Placido, DPA
Executive Director