

## Statement of Tad McCall

In Support of Proposed Amendments to Oregon HB 3314

Requested by Representative NOSSE

Good morning. My name is Tad McCall. I am the sole surviving member of Governor Tom McCall's family. Although Tom McCall has departed us, his vibrant spirit and love for the Willamette River is alive and---incarnate in Willie Levenson the Ringleader of the Human Access Project –HAP.

Since Willie couldn't get Tom to join him at this hearing, he asked me to join him and you. I appreciate the opportunity. For the record, I am a HAP Trustee and a Senior Advisor at the Natural Resources Institute at Texas A&M University. I am speaking today in my personal capacity, not for my institute.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of amendments to HB 3314 that will fund mitigation of what the amendment characterizes as harmful algal blooms in the Ross Island lagoon by opening a channel through the Ross Island lagoon.

This is not some haphazard channelization. This is a hydraulically engineered flushing channel designed by Oregon State University (OSU) that will restore the historic Willamette River flow through what is now a lagoon that is a perfect habitat for what is actually very harmful bacteria to bloom and proliferate.

This harmful bacteria proliferates in the lagoon and spills into the main Willamette and spews its poison downstream—This profoundly interrupts Willie and HAP's vision and plans for Oregonians to enjoy the Willamette River as Portland's aqueous heart—a heart beating with laughter and splashing, and swimming and fun~ Connecting humanity to its source.

Since I am part of a panel supporting the amendment, it is not surprising that I urge the legislature to vote for the amendment to HB3314 to support the OSU engineered channel that opens up the Ross Island area to fresh Willamette River that literally washes away the bacteria's habitat.

My focus is on the value of the bill to restore salmon habitat, especially for the young salmon migrating to the Columbia and onward to the Pacific Ocean. This is among the most vulnerable moments in a salmon's life—as you all know. Clean, cool, water flowing across shorelines that shelter the small salmon is especially important to their survival.

I am here to advocate for the young salmon seeking the Pacific Ocean that will be aided by the habitat improvements in this project to open up the water flow along the shores of Ross Island in cool Willamette River without the presence of harmful bacteria.

Although \$1M is a significant expenditure, this will be money well spent, for health of the Willamette River, the people of Oregon, and the salmon joining them in the cool, clean waters of the Willamette River as it flows through Portland.

In conclusion, let me point out that although HAP emphasizes the human interface with nature, HAP also stands for strong environmental protection for the Willamette River. That is why Willie Levenson and HAP have been the leaders and the catalysts for wiping out the hazards created in the Ross Island Lagoon, Your bill would turn that commitment into reality—and lots of good swimming parties and some additional salmon that can make the round trip from Oregon to the Pacific and home again.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak in favor of the amendment to HR 3314.