



TOGETHER FOR NATURE

March 4th, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 3314

Chair Helm, Chair Owens, Vice Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Bird Alliance of Oregon, I am writing to express our support of HB 3314 which provides important funding to address harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Ross Island Lagoon. Bird Alliance of Oregon has been engaged with efforts to protect and restore Ross Island for more than 40 years. We have considered it a top priority site for protection and restoration within the Portland metropolitan region. Ross Island provides important habitat for migratory birds and federally listed salmonids. It also provides outstanding opportunities for experiencing and enjoying nature within the urban core.

The proposed studies in HB 3314 will be important to studying how any HAB interventions are informed by comprehensive ecological studies and meaningful partner engagement. This investment from the State legislature would be an important commitment that would signal the State's engagement in the collaborative effort for protecting water quality, restoring critical habitat for endangered salmon, native birds and wildlife, and ensuring safe recreation opportunities on the Willamette River.

We urge the committee to support HB 3314.

Micah Meskel
Urban Conservation Director
Bird Alliance of Oregon