

**“Willamette Queen “ Sternwheeler  
Riverfront Park Salem, Oregon**

To: Legislative Review Committees:

This letter is in support of the Willamette Falls Locks Authority who are seeking continued appropriations for the reopening of the Locks (HB 2574), a state-sanctioned project.

Our company owns and operates the 87’ Willamette Queen sternwheeler here in Salem year- round for the past 27 years. Our vessel is the only authentic riverboat on the Willamette River offering a unique enjoyable experience reminiscent of the days when the only way to travel up and down through the Willamette Valley was by steam-powered sternwheeler boats.

As a U.S. Coast Guard inspected vessel we are required to dry dock the Queen every 5 years for a complete hull inspection. The only facility to accomplish this is in Portland and thus we must pass through the Locks at the Willamette Falls. Since 2011 when the Locks were closed we were forced to find an alternative way to dry dock our vessel which proved to be unsatisfactory for many reasons. We recently received an 18 month extension from the Coast Guard until September 2026. If we can’t satisfy this dry docking requirement we will lose our (COI) Certificate of Inspection and will no longer be able to operate thus forcing us out of business.

We hope you can support their request at this crucial time for our riverboat business and the rich historical legacy she represents for all Oregonians.

*Richard & Barbara Chubb*



## **River Assets and Opportunities Task Force** *Founded 2017*

To Legislative Review Committees:

This letter is written in support of the Willamette Falls Locks Authority who are seeking continued appropriations for successful opening of Willamette Falls Locks (HB 2574) , a state-sanctioned project.

We are the River Assets and Opportunities Task Force representing over 7 cities and 20 commercial and nonprofit education and tourism providers. Our mission is to encourage cities and other entities to work together on behalf of the Willamette River and its economic development and tourism opportunities.

We are the largest cooperative organization of this type in Oregon and working specifically to support a couple project including the restoration and opening of Willamette Falls Locks. Our members including the Portland Spirit organization, Willamette Queen sternwheeler, and cities of West Linn, Oregon City, and Lake Oswego specifically participated in developing tour and economic strategies utilizing Willamette Falls Locks since 2015.

We see opportunities for large and small scale private and public sector tourism organizations to create markets for routine uses of Willamette Falls Locks that would ultimately open up the Willamette River from the Columbia all the way to Salem and Albany. Our members have the professional marketing ability and expertise to make routine utilizations of the Locks not only probable but more than feasible. Some of our members also operate commercial dock building, channel maintenance and other businesses that could provide heavier tonnage usages of the Locks that were typical of the past.

We hope you can support their request which we believe is coming at a crucial time for the success of our Willamette River and Oregon.

Sincerely,

Kent Ziegler

Chairman