



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

April 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Support for Willamette Falls Trust's Request for Legislative Funds to Acquire Key Lands at Willamette Falls

To the Honorable Members of Oregon State's Legislative Body,


I write on behalf of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation ("Yakama Nation") to support Willamette Falls Trust's request for state funding to acquire the property on the west side of the Willamette River, including Moore's Island and its surrounding uplands.

Our 1855 Treaty with the United States (12 Stat. 951) guarantees our pre-existing cultural practices and fishing rights throughout the Columbia River Basin and its tributaries. Willamette Falls is a historically and culturally significant usual and accustomed site to the Yakama Nation, where, like our ancestors, we continue traditions like our lamprey harvest.

We stand in unity with our fellow Native Nations who share ties to Willamette Falls, including the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs of Oregon. We recognize our shared histories with this sacred place. This is why we advocate on behalf of Willamette Falls Trust and its goal ecological restoration, education, and public access.

Your investment will significantly expand the ability for all Oregonians and visitors to reconnect with and experience the majesty of Willamette Falls. Furthermore, this effort will provide a vital platform for education and the sharing of Native cultural and natural heritage. We believe that through collaborative action, we can achieve a vision for restoration at Willamette Falls that honors its past, serves the present, and safeguards its future.

Sincerely,


GERALD LEWIS, CHAIRMAN
YAKAMA NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL