

RACHEL PRUSAK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 37



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Representative Rayfield and Representative Holvey,

We serve as legislative members of the Willamette Falls Locks Commission (WFLC), which was established by SB 256 in the 2017 Session. The WFLC's directive is to advise the state and other governments on policies relating to the repair, reopening, operation and maintenance of the Willamette Falls locks and navigation canal (Locks) and to make recommendations for funding responsibilities for the future of the Locks.

On January 30, 2019, the WFLC voted unanimously to recommend \$15.535 million from lottery bonding to repair and upgrade the Locks to safe operational status. Funding would cover seepage and erosion repairs, seismic upgrades, gudgeon anchors, valves, fire protection, electrical systems, hydraulic power units and control systems. These repairs are based on an independent condition assessment prepared by KPFF Consulting Engineers last October.

We support this recommendation, anticipating that there may be certain conditions for governance and operations placed on the release of the funding. This recommendation builds on the \$7.5 million for the Locks included by Governor Kate Brown in her proposed 2019 budget.

The economic benefits of restoring the Locks to operational status have been well documented in a report issued by ECO Northwest in January of 2018. ECO NW reports there are quantified transportation benefits of between \$12 and 49 million and quantified recreation benefits of between \$12 to \$50 million over the next 30 years. In addition, there are potential benefits, which could create nearly \$100 million in economic benefits for Oregonians. These unquantified benefits include tourism, industrial site development and redevelopment sites in West Linn, Oregon City, Canby, Newberg, Wilsonville, Lake Oswego and Milwaukie.

The Locks are important to our state's history and culture. The Locks are a key part of Willamette Falls, one of the most sacred and vital sites for Native Americans in the U.S. The State of Oregon was a partner in constructing the Locks, first in 1870, when the state contributed \$200,000 for the Locks, and again in 1912-13, when the state contributed \$300,000 for improvements at the time the Corps purchased the Locks for the benefit of the public. The Locks are a primary historic asset in the Willamette Falls State Heritage Area and in 2012 were

declared one of the most threatened National Treasures by the National Trust For Historic Preservation.

Now is the time to restore the Locks as a public asset for future generations! The Locks offer opportunities for economic development, recreation, transportation, and cultural enrichment for our community and our state.

Thank you for your consideration of lottery bond financing for the repair and reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks!

Sincerely,



Representative Christine Drazen



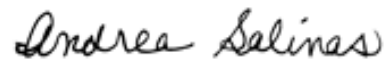
Representative Rick Lewis



Representative Mark Meek



Representative Rachel Prusak



Representative Andrea Salinas



OREGON STATE SENATE

February 21, 2019

Dear Senators Johnson, Steiner Hayward and Girod,

I was appointed to represent the people of my district and the State on the Willamette Falls Locks Commission (WFLC), established by the Legislature in 2017. I support the recommendation of the WFLC for \$15.535 million to make needed repairs to reopen the Locks and provide necessary seismic upgrades.

The time to repair and reopen the Locks is NOW! The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued their Draft Disposition study in 2017 with the recommendation to either transfer the Locks to another entity, or if a transferee is not found, build a concrete bulkhead to seal the Locks and permanently decommission the Locks, preventing future use by Oregonians.

The transportation benefits alone justify reopening the Locks. 80,000 to 220,000 truck trips could be removed from Metro-area roads over the next thirty years, 11,000 to 32,000 metric tons of CO2 could be reduced, and there would be immediate transportation benefits from the barging of goods through the Locks and in-water construction cost savings.

The recreational and tourism benefits are exciting to contemplate. The Willamette River is one of only 20 National Water Trails, providing recreational opportunities for our community and a draw for tourists. The Locks are also cultural and historic assets, located in a designated State Heritage area. With fishing opportunities, wine tours upriver and the natural beauty of Willamette Falls and the river, the potential for economic benefits for the state from tourism is enormous.

It is important to repair and reopen the Locks is for our Oregon community and for future generations to learn about the history of Oregon, enjoy recreational boating on the river, benefit from the jobs and redevelopment in the cities along the river, and maintain the Locks for resiliency following a catastrophic seismic event.

Thank you for your consideration of funding to repair and reopen the Locks!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Olsen", is written over a horizontal line.

Senator Alan Olsen



OREGON STATE SENATE

Dear Senators Johnson and Steiner Hayward,

The Willamette Falls Locks Commission (WFLC) was established by the legislature in 2017 when SB 256 was enacted. I was appointed to serve on the WFLC by the Senate President. The WFLC is charged with making recommendations for funding for the repair and reopening of the Willamette Falls navigation canal and locks.

The WFLC voted yesterday to recommend to the 2019 Legislature funding from lottery bonding for capital repairs in the amount of \$15.535 million to restore the facility to a safe operating condition. This cost estimate is based on an independent engineering analysis of needed repairs to the Locks conducted by KPFF last summer.

Governor Kate Brown included \$7.5 million in Oregon State Lottery bonds in her proposed 2019 budget for the Locks. I appreciate her leadership and support for the Locks.

The transportation, recreation and economic benefits of a reopened Locks for the state have been well-documented by an ECONorthwest report issued last year. The Locks also hold tremendous historical and cultural value and increase our region's resiliency to recover from a future disaster such as a Cascadia earthquake.

There are some governance and operational issues that need to be resolved and the WFLC is working to address them in partnership with the Governor's office. I am confident that this funding can and will be well spent, and anticipate putting certain conditions on the release of funding for the repairs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for Lottery bond financing.

Sincerely,^[1]_[SEP]

Senator Rob Wagner