



Date: February 25, 2016

To: Tammy Baney
Transportation Vision Panel Co-Chair
Deschutes County Commissioner
1300 NW Wall St #200
Bend, OR 97701

Gregg Kantor
Transportation Vision Panel Co-Chair
Northwest Natural, President & CEO
220 NW 2nd Avenue, 13th Floor
97209

Re: Public Comments for the Governor's Transportation Vision Panel – Key Preliminary Findings

**The Willamette
Falls Locks
Working Group**

Clackamas County

Metro Regional
Government

City of Milwaukie

City of Oregon City

City of West Linn

City of Wilsonville

eNRG Kayaking

Portland General
Electric

Wilsonville Concrete
Products

National Trust for
Historic Preservation

One Willamette
River Coalition

Dear Co-Chairs Baney and Kantor:

On behalf of the Willamette Falls Locks Working Group, thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment on the Key Preliminary Findings for the Governor's Transportation Vision Panel. Please find attached our recommended amendments to include additional language identifying the Willamette River as an invaluable economic driver and transportation resource to Oregon.

The Willamette Falls Locks Working Group is a coalition of stakeholders invested in seeing the Willamette River return to a single navigable river by way of restoring the Willamette Falls Locks. Since the closure of the Locks in 2011 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Willamette River has essentially been two separate waterways. While we are certainly invested in the historical value of this 143 year old facility, we believe the restoration of the Locks will create economic opportunities for Oregon that are otherwise lost while the Locks remain in disrepair.

It is our understanding that the Governor's Transportation Vision Panel has been charged with looking at Oregon's transportation system holistically. We firmly believe the Willamette River can provide a transportation service to the Willamette Valley as it once did throughout most of the 1900's, though perhaps through modern industry such as tourism and recreation. While economies and usage of the river are ever evolving, it is our goal to make it clear that a permanent closure of the Willamette Falls Locks will permanently limit any future economies and transportation opportunities from developing on the Willamette River.

Thank you for leading this great work to assess the future of Oregon's transportation infrastructure and for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Gary Schmidt at gschmidt@clackamas.us for additional information.

Sincerely,

Tootie Smith, Commissioner
Clackamas County
Chair

Annette Mattson
Portland General Electric
Co-Chair

CC: Colonel Jose Aguilar, USACE
SB 131 Willamette Falls Locks State Task Force
Sam Haffner, ODOT GTVP Project Manager

Attached: GTVP Key Preliminary Findings Amendment Recommendations by the WFLWG