



Memorandum

To: Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners
From: Tonia Holowetzki, Director, Public & Government Affairs
RE: HB 2574 – Willamette Falls Locks Funding Request
Date: February 4, 2025

Request: PGA is seeking the BCC's direction on a request to support [House Bill 2574](#) by the Willamette Falls Locks Authority.

Background: The Willamette Falls Locks are in Clackamas County, on the banks of the Willamette River within the City of West Linn. The Locks provide a historic, economic, and recreational connection between the upper and lower Willamette River. Access to these significant connections has been absent since the closure of the Locks in 2011 due to safety issues.

- Clackamas County has supported efforts to repair and reopen the locks since 2014.
- The Locks are still owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The seismic repairs required before ownership transfer are nearly complete. The Locks Authority would use this requested funding to focus on repairs to the operational status of the facility.
- Repairing the canal and locks will preserve the oldest and most intact bypass canal and leaf-gate locks in the nation and set an example for sensitive care and operations of historic inland waterway navigation sites.

The bill proposes to:

1. Modify provisions related to finances, public contracting authority and composition of Willamette Falls Locks Authority.
2. Authorize \$11.431 million in lottery bond proceeds to the Willamette Falls Locks Authority for the restoration of the Willamette Falls navigation canal and locks.

A public hearing is not yet scheduled. Requests are occurring to build coalition support.

Recommendation: PGA recommends the county support House Bill 2574.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonia Holowetzki
Director, Public & Government Affairs