



May **DRAFT**, 2020

Jon Gustafson, Board President  
info@wfheritage.org  
Willamette Falls & Landings Heritage Area Coalition  
PO Box 387, Marylhurst, OR 97036

RE: Continued support for Designation of Willamette Falls & Landings as a National Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Gustafson,

Clackamas County is proud to reaffirm our support of the Coalition's work to pursue National Heritage Area designation for the 56 river miles in the proposed Willamette Falls & Landings Heritage Area.

We believe this place is special. Clackamas County is proud to bear the namesake of the indigenous people that called Willamette Falls home, and understands that the history of this area stretches back into time immemorial. It includes a complicated history of western expansion by the United States, and was the landing spot for many Americans reaching the end of the Oregon Trail. As the first incorporated county in Oregon, we believe these nationally significant stories and themes within this distinctive landscape are worth sharing, and what better way to ensure that history is honored than through federal designation as a Heritage Area.

We appreciate the extensive research, public outreach and hard work of your organization and its stakeholders, including the completion and submission of the feasibility study which the National Park Service found met all the criteria for the designation.

As you continue to preserve and interpret this unique piece of our nation's history and culture, please let us know how we can further assist in securing Congressional approval for the Willamette Falls & Landings National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

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