

May 27, 2015



Martha Bennett
Metro Chief Operating Officer
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

RE: Application for CPDG Funding for the Willamette Falls Legacy Project Joint Opportunity Study and Refined Master Plan

Dear Ms. Bennett,

On behalf of the Clackamas County Business Alliance (CCBA) I would like to submit the following letter of support for the Willamette Falls Legacy Project's funding request for Metro Community Planning and Development Grants.

We believe that the proposed project is an exceptional example of the guiding principles of the grant program and should be fully supported.

- As advocates for the local and regional economy, we see this type of economic development as critical for the health of the entire community. The Willamette Falls Legacy Project site's location immediately adjacent to Willamette Falls and the Oregon City Regional Center and its notable role in Oregon's history make this 23 acre, single-owner property a truly unique and regionally-significant development opportunity.
- The statewide significance of this project cannot be overstated. Willamette Falls has the potential to become one of Oregon's marquee visitor attractions, and a sterling example of economic redevelopment. However, additional work is required to better understand the infrastructure phasing and development strategy needed to move the project to development stage.
- This innovative grant ensures the public is at the table for critical decisions in the future development of this significant cultural resource, one of statewide significance, while at the same time: the private owner remains significantly financially invested in the process.

Partial funding for the grant request may put the whole project in jeopardy and slow or reverse the momentum that has already begun.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this grant request. We look forward to working with the partners and Falls Legacy LLC to ensure that the Willamette Falls Legacy Project is a success for Oregon City, Clackamas County, the greater Portland metropolitan region, the State of Oregon – and all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Howorth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Howorth
CCBA President