

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING THE)	RESOLUTION NO. 14-4506
CREATION OF A WILLAMETTE FALLS STATE)	
HERITAGE AREA AND URGING)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha
DESIGNATION OF SUCH BY THE OREGON		Bennett in concurrence with Council
HERITAGE COMMISSION		President Tom Hughes

WHEREAS, State Heritage Areas are designated by the Oregon Heritage Commission to promote heritage conservation and economic development in regions of the state that have a distinct and significant historic character; and;

WHEREAS, the Willamette Falls area is an important nexus of geologic formations created by the Missoula Floods, including the Willamette Meteorite and the foundation of the unmatched fertility of the Willamette Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Falls area was and remains an important gathering place for fishing and trade among the numerous tribes for centuries prior to Euro-American settlement; and

WHEREAS, the Falls area and Willamette River has been and continues as an important transportation hub for trade, commerce and recreation; and

WHEREAS, following discovery by white explorers, the Falls area became a focal point for early trappers, traders, and entrepreneurs, including the Hudson’s Bay Company and Dr. John McLoughlin; and

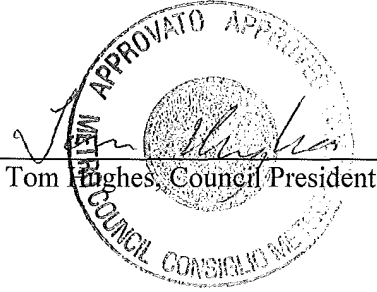
WHEREAS, the power of Willamette Falls has inspired human industry since its discovery, providing mechanical power for early sawmills and eventually hydropower for local woolen and paper mills and is home to the longest operating multi-lift navigation locks in the United States, as well as the site of America’s first long distance transmission of electricity; and

WHEREAS, the 2,000-mile long epic Oregon Trail journey ended at Willamette Falls, making it the destination point for one of the largest overland migrations in human history; and

WHEREAS, the settlements at the end of the Oregon Trail plus the iron-smelting and other early industries became a major pacific northwest industrial center; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council supports and applauds the efforts of the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition to attain Oregon state heritage area designation for the area encompassing the historic areas of West Linn, Oregon City and Lake Oswego, and urges the Oregon Heritage Commission to find that such status is merited by proclaiming the first state designation as the Willamette Falls State Heritage Area.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 25 day of February 2014.



Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney